

**Local Historic District Study Committee**  
**PUBLIC FORUM**  
**6/15/10 7:00 pm**  
**The Amherst Woman's Club, 35 Triangle Street**

PRESENT: Jerry Guidera, James Wald, Lynda Faye, Bill Gillen, Nathaniel Malloy (Planning Dept.)

ABSENT: Phil Shaver, Tini Sawicki, Wendy Kohler

GUESTS: 25 members of the public

**Public Forum: Committee introductions and statements:**

1. The reasons for the existence of the LHDSC, as presented to the public, springs from previous reports and recommendations. The scope of work and composition of the committee is per state guidelines.
2. Work of the committee to date was reported: Mostly identifying boundaries of the district and defining its historic significance.
3. Timeline: LHDSC hopes to present an article to the spring 2011 Town Meeting.
4. The approvals yet to obtain: Approval by Mass. Historic Commission, approval by the Planning Board, 2/3 approval by Town Meeting.
5. Work to do: Identification and regulation (the bylaws).

**Public Forum: Citizen comments and questions:**

- a. Don't make it more difficult to obtain a building permit. If anything, expedite permit approval.
  - b. Our neighborhood is our heritage and expressions of support for preserving that.
  - c. Concerns about extent of control over property. Answer: To be determined and proposed by the local study committee. Noted items customarily not controlled were enumerated by Jim.
  - d. Why not make the historic district the whole town or add individual homes throughout the town? Answer: These are all possibilities, although the Massachusetts Historical Commission encourages districts that have unifying themes, architecture, etc. and this would not apply for a town-wide district in Amherst, or support individual structures. We are starting with a basic model first, then hopefully this model can be replicated for the creation of other districts.
  - e. A number of those present asked if they could attend our meetings and can they receive the minutes? Answer: Yes, all meetings are open to the public, and the minutes are posted online. Minutes and meeting documents can also be requested from Town staff. Citizens can be notified of meetings by contacting the Clerk's Office, Town staff, or looking online.
6. The public was urged to complete the questionnaire and submit it to the Planning Department.
  7. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



William Gillen, Clerk  
cc: Committee