

Amherst Historical Commission  
MEETING  
Tuesday, May 11, 2010  
Second Floor Conference Room, Town Hall  
7:15 p.m.

Present: James Wald, Chair; Gai Carpenter, Clerk; Louis Greenbaum, Elizabeth Sharpe. Absent: Michael Hanke, Lyle Denit. Staff: Nathaniel Malloy, Associate Planner. Guest: Thom Long.

Mr. Wald called the meeting to order at 7:23 p.m. There were no announcements. Minutes of 4/1 and 4/27 were presented, Ms. Sharpe moved and Mr. Greenbaum seconded their approval, approved unanimously.

Thom Long appeared at 7:30 p.m. to discuss plans for new construction at 1270 Southeast Street, a location previously approved for demolition of an attached barn/shed. Members of the Commission expressed thanks to Mr. Long for the follow-up, and agreed that the planned new structure was attractive.

Mr. Greenbaum reported that he spoke at Town Meeting about 575 North East Street to clarify members understanding of its current use and invited Town Meeting members to visit the site. The CPAC chair was not in attendance, but Mr. Wald explained the purposes for CPA funds. Town Meeting approved Habitat for Humanity and Historical Commission proposals, and the rest of the FY 2011 CPA projects are on the agenda for May 12. The Commission briefly discussed the possible Hawthorne property acquisition and its implications depending on use of CPA funds for the acquisition.

Mr. Malloy reported receiving a message from Irving Slavid on the condition of the Civil War tablets. The Commission discussed the possibility of bringing a proposal to CPAC and Town Meeting in the fall for the reinstallation of the plaques, including the needed architectural/engineering study.

Mr. Malloy reported he is working with Martha Lyon on bid specs for ironwork in West Cemetery. Some pieces of the Cutler fence may be stored at Ruxton, according to DPW staff.

Mr. Hanke has still not finished the final specs for the signs and markers for the cemetery, Writers' Walk, or Historic Districts.

The Local Historic District Study Committee met today and Mr. Malloy reported that goal is still to have a proposal for Town Meeting next year, and to start the

public process in summer, with public hearings in the fall.

Ms. Carpenter and Mr. Malloy reported that they still need to have a meeting with IT staff about the GIS data system and links to historic inventory records.

Mr. Wald noted that the realtor has talked with the buyer of the Merrick House on Pomeroy Lane about the possible NHR nomination and that he is more interested in a nomination now that he has the information.

Mr. Malloy reminded the Commission of a recent email from Chris Skelly about the state historic preservation plan.

Members of the Commission talked with regret about the Spring Street demolition of Lessey House and reviewed the actions previously taken by the Commission to delay the demolition and attempt to work with the owners to find an alternative.

The Commission agreed to hold a demolition delay hearing on the request to raze a barn at 30 Cows Road at its meeting of June 1.

The Commission had earlier agreed to make an Historic Preservation Award to Joe Larson and PUMA; Ms. Carpenter asked Mr. Malloy to follow up on the status of that award.

The Commission will lose Mr. Greenbaum at the end of his term in June, and Mr. Wald's membership on the Select Board, while not precluding his continuation on the Commission, does suggest under normal protocol that he should step down. Fortunately, two Citizen Activity Forms have been filed for vacant seats.

Next Meetings - June 1, July 6.

Ms. Sharpe moved adjournment at 9:12 pm, Mr. Greenbaum seconded.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gai Carpenter, Clerk