

Amherst Historical Commission  
PUBLIC MEETING  
Tuesday, August 3, 2010  
First Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall  
7:15 p.m.

Present: James Wald, Chair; Michael Hanke, Vice-Chair; Gai Carpenter, Clerk; Lyle Denit, Lynda Faye, Anurag Sharma, Elizabeth Sharpe. Staff: Nathaniel Malloy, Associate Planner.

Mr. Wald called the meeting to order at 7:25 pm.

Mr. Malloy reported that the final Bay Road/Route 116 archaeological survey had been received and that it mentioned some pre-contact Native American items, but nothing of significance. The Commission had a brief discussion of the survey, the scope of the construction project, and the work of the state/DOT archaeologist. Ms. Sharpe urged that the report be read carefully to understand the finds and to determine whether there should be any follow-up study.

Minutes of the meeting of May 11 were presented, Mr. Hanke moved approval, seconded by Ms. Sharpe, approved unanimously. Ms. Sharpe moved approval of the minutes of July 8, with the corrected spelling of Wistariahurst, Mr. Hanke seconded, approved unanimously.

Mr. Malloy presented an invoice received from MCC for cleaning and crating the Civil War tablets, requesting that the balance of \$8,500 in funds for the project be released. Mr. Sharma's questions initiated a discussion of the budget for project and how it was phased. Ms. Faye asked about any plans for placement of the plaques; Mr. Malloy, Mr. Hanke and Ms. Sharpe described their work on that phase of the project. Ms. Faye moved to approve payment to MCC, Mr. Hanke seconded, approved unanimously.

Mr. Hanke has completed drawings for signs, and offered some modifications to RFP specifications that were too detailed. Review of the RFP is now up to Mr. Malloy and town staff, who will bring the final RFP back to Commission for approval. Ms. Faye moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Hanke for his work on design and development of specifications for the signs; Ms. Carpenter seconded, approved unanimously, with Mr. Hanke abstaining.

Mr. Malloy reported that a contract with Martha Lyon to do specifications for the West Cemetery ironwork is almost complete

Mr. Malloy said that Teagno Construction thought some of the Hawthorne house might be late 18<sup>th</sup> c. He talked with Bonnie Parsons, whom the Commission had thought of enlisting to further evaluate the house. She said she couldn't put a value on timbers/reuse of timbers, and suggested one would need dendrochronology to date the timber. Mr. Malloy

said that Teagno did a fairly thorough report and Ms. Parsons didn't think she could add much to it. Mr. Malloy also said that Mr. Tucker did a report on the property. Ms. Faye urged the Commission to look carefully at the house, barns, and historic landscape and their significance in what is now the center of town before taking any action. She asked Mr. Malloy for copies of Teagno's and Mr. Tucker's reports.

Ms. Faye reported that the Local Historic District Study Committee is in the process of creating the bylaw that would define the district. Of forty-eight surveys distributed, only four of the sixteen returned were negative, so the process will continue. She led some discussion of the current permitting system and the lack of checks for any historic significance of structures.

The Commission had a conversation about the inventory of historic sites and ways of expanding and completing it, linking to the town's GIS system. Ms. Sharpe suggested the possibility of using students and offering credit in high school courses to provide photos of documented properties.

The Commission agreed that the meadow in the oldest sections of West Cemetery has grown as hoped, and the site looks lovely. Ms. Carpenter raised a concern about non-native invasives that are not consistent with the period of the meadow.

Mr. Malloy would like to make a site visit to the Cemetery with DPW staff and an Historical Commission representative to discuss motion detection lighting and develop a proposal for lighting installation. The Commission discussed the need for security lighting and its efficacy. Generally there was no Historical Commission support for lights inside the cemetery. Mr. Denit volunteered to do a site visit with the DPW and Mr. Malloy and to report back to the Commission.

Mr. Hanke posed a question about the status of the engineering study for the Town Tomb. It had previously been planned to bundle the tomb gate with the other ironwork, but the fence work is now separate. Mr. Malloy will check on the status of the tomb evaluation. Mr. Hanke pointed out that an engineering study is needed to specify repairs, followed by a contract for the work. Mr. Malloy also said that contractors he has consulted report that the existing door can be reused and only needs new bushings and pins.

The Commission again reviewed the Open Meeting Law requirements and restrictions.

The Commission needs representatives to the Design Review Board and Community Preservation Act Committee and should have the members in place by fall. Volunteers will be recruited at the next meeting.

Mr. Wald suggested that he might once again tabulate the progress made on implementing the Historic Preservation Plan, and noted that one area in which little had been done was archaeological surveys. His observation led to several suggestions of potentially fruitful sites, including the early small industrial sites in Nuttingville, the Strong House, and other industrial sites in North Amherst. Additional discussion of FY2011 projects and priorities will be based on a new review of the Historic Preservation Plan.

Mr. Malloy distributed copies of the letter sent to Cinda Jones as a follow-up on the Commission's demolition delay decision on the 30 Cows Road barn.

The Commission agreed not to hold a demolition delay hearing on the property at 274 Sunderland Road. Ms. Sharpe moved to allow the requested demolition, Ms. Faye asked to amend to request documentation, Mr. Denit seconded the amended motion, passed unanimously. Mr. Denit will document the structure.

The Commission agreed to schedule a demolition delay hearing at its August 23 meeting for the 74 College Street fence, and had a brief discussion of options for the Clark House fence.

Next Meetings - August 23, September 7

Mr. Hanke moved, and Mr. Denit seconded adjournment at 9:42 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Gai Carpenter, Clerk

**Documentation distributed at the meeting:**

Agenda

Minutes May 11, 2010

Minutes July 8, 2010

MCC Invoice 8/3/2010

Copy of Town Clerk's memo headed New Open Meeting Law, distributed June 28, 2010

Copy of letter from Nathaniel Malloy to Cinda Jones informing her of decision on  
DDA2010-00010, 30 Cows Road

Demolition application, Bill Stein, 274 Sunderland Road, garage (5 p.)

Demolition application, Amherst College, 74 College Street, fence (5 p)

Additional photographs of fence at 74 College Street (9 p.)