

Amherst Historical Commission  
PUBLIC MEETING  
September 7, 2010  
Lower Meeting Room, Bangs Community Center  
7:15 p.m.

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

Mr. Wald called the meeting to order at 7: 24 pm. Mr. Malloy reported that the locust trees next to Bangs Center will be removed in conjunction with replacement of the brick paving. He also informed the Commission that there are plans to add a new front door and parking lot at the South Amherst School. He presented a letter from the Massachusetts Historical Commission indicating that Native American artifacts had been found in a preliminary investigation of a site on Strong Street where WMECO will be upgrading lines. The MHC is recommending a thorough investigation of the site to determine its boundaries and contents.

Ms. Sharpe moved acceptance of the minutes of August 23, seconded Mr. Hanke, approved unanimously.

Mr. Malloy mentioned that the Community Preservation Act Committee will meet on September 22.

The Local Historic District Study Committee is continuing to work on the bylaw. The Commission had a lengthy discussion of the politics and process of creating the district and the need to work with some of the major players. Members also suggested the possibility of writing to the newspapers in an effort to counter some of the recent misstatements about the Commission's actions.

Mr. Malloy has the contract out to Martha Lyon for the West Cemetery ironwork specifications. The RFP for signs is complete and moving through town offices. Recently, there have been comments from concerned citizens about condition of the lawns in the cemetery. A sign explaining the reason for leaving parts of the knoll and other areas as meadows was never installed, and a map drawn for the DPW indicating which areas were to be mowed and which not was evidently not understood. The Commission agreed to pursue additional plantings, and questioned whether ATG might do more work this fall.

Ms. Carpenter and Mr. Wald reported on a recent exchange with Hampshire College representatives about the Aaron Warner house NHR nomination and the need to arrange a visit by William Flynt. They await a response.

Mr. Wald urged that the Commission revive the annual Preservation Award for local preservation efforts. He asked Mr. Malloy to investigate past practice in making awards. Ms. Carpenter reminded the Commission that an award to Joe Larson and PUMA was voted but has not been made. Mr. Hanke agreed to work on designing an appropriate certificate.

Mr. Hanke and Ms. Carpenter will represent the Historical 'commission on the Design Review Board and CPAC respectively; both need to be sworn. Although the Commission officers from FY 2010 continue, the Commission should formally re-elect officers at some time.

Mr. Wald suggested that in planning FY2011 initiatives, Commission members need to think about where we are with approved projects and what more we should do in pursuit of the preservation plan. He suggested reviewing the Preservation Plan to highlight projects/items that might be FY 2012 funding candidates.

A new demolition application has been submitted for a garage/barn at 1394 South East Street. Pictures supplied with the application don't show real evidence of the tree damage cited as reason for to demolition. Members will drive by and make a decision about holding Demolition Delay Hearing at their next meeting, September 21.

The Commission agreed to schedule a site visit to 235 East Pleasant Street, the Hawthorne House, on Wednesday, September 15, at 10:00 am. Mr. Malloy has visited the property with Bonnie Parsons of PVPC, and the Commission will have her report shortly. The public demolition delay hearing on that property is scheduled for September 21.

Next meetings are scheduled for September 21, October 5, and October 19.

Ms. Sharpe moved adjournment at 9:11 pm; all present favored the motion.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gai Carpenter, Clerk

**Documents distributed at the meeting—available in the Planning Dept. at Town Hall:**

Agenda

Minutes of the meeting of August 23, 2010

Demolition Application, Paul Fleischman, 1394 South East Street, barn/garage