

Amherst Historical Commission
PUBLIC MEETING
May 17, 2011
First Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall
6:30 p.m.

Present: James Wald, chair, Elizabeth Sharpe, Michael Hanke, Lyle Denit, Nathaniel Malloy, staff liaison.

Meeting convened at 6:45pm

The planned meeting with representatives from Amherst College to discuss the proposed science building is postponed until July/August after the College's Board of Trustees can discuss the project.

Reviewed the passage of CPA articles by Town Meeting.

Ms. Sharpe moved that the Commission minutes of May 3, 2011 be approved. Mr. Denit seconded. Motion carried, 3-0-1.

It was noted that with the expiring terms of commission members Mr. Wald and Mr. Denit, and Ms. Carpenter's passing, three new members will be needed soon.

The Jewish Community of Amherst will hold an informational meeting for its members regarding the proposed Town land takings for bus stops. This will be on May 31, some days before their annual meeting. Can the Commission send someone to speak to the historic district issues? Mr. Hanke and Mr. Denit said they could likely go. A 1-page flyer to distribute would be helpful. (Note: before this meeting took place, the Town withdrew the proposal to take land and add bus pullouts in the lower Main St. locations.)

Discussed the metal fence restoration at the Dickinson plot in West Cemetery. One bid was received, from DeAngelis Iron Work, Inc. Do we want to accept that bid, or re-issue RFP? They are judged "responsive and responsible." Ms. Sharpe moved to accept their proposal and explore the cost of the work with them. Mr. Denit seconded. Motion passed, 4-0.

North Amherst Community Farm has applied to demolish their carriage barn. This was the same structure that they planned to demolish some years ago, and discussed with the Commission. Current consensus is to take no action. We will ask them to make sure it is documented, and that any useful materials be salvaged for re-use on site. It was noted that Mr. Denit documented this structure for its first

"go round." Ms. Sharpe suggested that "Lyle's Form" be used as a standard for documenting such outbuildings.

It was noted that the demolition delay on the Trolley Barn at Cowl's Lumber will expire on July 8. Again noted that HABS drawings of it would be nice, but we have no one to do them.

The Local Historic District Study Committee is discussing what proposed design guidelines should include. They refer only to elements visible from the public way. Discussion in the committee concerns whether permitting regulations should be weighted towards ease of permitting or perhaps a stricter protection of design elements.

Discussed National Historic Register nominations. We will approach Hope Church. Mr. Denit will again ask the owners of 706 South East St. about possible interest.

Mr. Hanke asked about the status of the RFP for West Cemetery signs. There is some question as to whether the actual text that will be decided on later could necessitate a change in the sign size. Mr. Hanke and Mr. Malloy will meet to discuss and finalize this issue.

Discussed hiring of consultant to shepherd completion of CPA projects. Could that entail hiring Pioneer Valley Planning Commission as consultant?

Mr. Malloy will re-send the color-coded form of our remaining CPA projects. Commission members will look it over and decide by next week what each will work on.

Discussed how to formalize the award notification, preservation restriction and reimbursement process for recipients of CPA funding.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lyle Denit

Material distributed at meeting—available at Town Hall

Agenda

Minutes of May 3, 2011

Non-price proposal from DeAngelis Iron Work, Inc.

Demolition Application for carriage barn at North Amherst Community Farm

Email from Commission chair, Jim Wald, regarding JCA meeting to discuss bus stop