

Local Historic District Study Committee Meeting
1/11/2011
Glass Room, Bangs Community Center

PRESENT: Jerry Guidera (Chair), Phillip Shaver, Wendy Kohler, Bill Gillen; Nathaniel Malloy
(Planning Dept.)
Member of the public: Tom Ehrgood
ABSENT: Lynda Faye, Tini Sawicki, James Wald

1. Announcements and minutes:

- A. Nate Malloy described a new district discussed in the Daily Hampshire Gazette last week about the Rt. 66/Green St. neighborhood in Northampton. A district is being defined in cooperation with Smith College which will apply only to new construction. Nate will learn more about it in case questions come up at our upcoming public meeting.
- B. Handouts: Minutes of Dec 7 meeting, the Agenda of meeting 1/11, Discussion Draft Rules and Regulations of 1/11/2011, Amherst Local Historic District Bylaw (undated)
- C. Minutes of 12/7/2010 were approved with no comments.
- D. Public comments: Tom Ehrgood's question: has the committee met with Bonnie Weeks regarding the proposed rules and regs? Answer: No, however, it is time now that the draft regs are completed.

Rules & Regs., paragraph 3.2.1, 3.2.2.: Tom Ehrgood suggested that the historic commission adopt a "form."

Tom is concerned that the bylaw appears to require a historic restoration in this district. Tom thought it was inappropriate for historic expectations to be applied to the district as a whole since some buildings are non (historic) contributing.

2. Old Business:

- A. Draft Rules and Regulations dated 1/1/2011 with changes agreed to (see attached email dated 1/12/2011 written by Phil Shaver).

It was noted that it is time now to review the draft Bylaw and Rules with the building commission, town counsel, Jonathan Tucker and town manager before the public forum.

- B. The committee discussed the "carrot" concept; what kind of incentives can be offered to property owners to encourage the adoption of this historic district? Methods of expediting the approval process and the no fees were two ideas discussed. Perhaps more ideas will come up at our next meeting.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Next meeting: February 8, 2011, 5:30 p.m, in anticipation of a March public forum.
- B. Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of William V. Gillen in black ink.

William V. Gillen, Clerk
RJ;237 mtg 12-7
Attachment

cc: Committee
Nate Malloy

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EMAIL
FROM: pshaver@ol.com
SENT: Wednesday, January 12, 2011
SUBJECT: LHD Rules, Revised to Jan 12

Dear Colleagues:

At yesterday's meeting we made no changes to the text of the BYLAW.

Three changes are reflected in the attached revised RULES.

Near the end of 3.1 we added a reference to a designated person in the Town Planning Department, as an initial contact.

In 3.3(3) we allowed comment from "the public" instead of "anyone else with an interest in the proposal."

The second paragraph of 3.7 was revised to make sure nobody expects non-contributing buildings in the District to be held to the standards that apply to historic buildings. It now begins: "As to the features of all buildings deemed by the Commission to be significant to the history of the Town of Amherst,"

Our consensus was that this revised text could be circulated, with the Bylaw text, to Town staff people, for their comments. Our hope is that the staff comments on the two documents could be reviewed at our next meeting, February 8.

Good reading for a snowy day!

Phil

Philip A. Shaver
69 Amity Place
Amherst MA 01002

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