

**Amherst Historical Commission
Public Meeting
Tuesday, June 5, 2012
First Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall
7:15 p.m.**

Present

Lynda Faye, Michael Hanke, Matt Cornell, Meg Vickery, Elizabeth Sharpe, Nathaniel Malloy, James Wald

1. Announcements

None.

2. Minutes

Lynda moved to accept, Meg seconded, passed unanimously.

3. Appearance

7:30 p.m. 28 Shays Street

Extensive comments were heard by the owner Michael Ben-Chaim and by his neighbors. Ben-Chaim hoped the Historical Commission would support the project. Michael Hanke summarized the Commission's advisory role in this issue, that we are interested as stewards, then noted that it didn't come to the Commission's attention in a timely fashion. Commission members asked for clarification re: location of the addition and about the possibility of installing a year-around vegetated buffer. Nathaniel outlined the Commission's concern re: lighting, with the onus being on the owner to implement plantings. Commission members discussed possible impact of sale and future student rental in imperiling neighboring historic property, and options for ZBA recommendations such as adding an owner-occupied condition, or stating that screening must be in place prior to issuance of move-in approval. Lynda moved the the Commission recommend to the ZBA that if 28 Shay Street is approved for a duplex, that a condition be applied to permit to require owner occupancy, and to strongly recommend that heavy, evergreen, vegetative screening be installed along property line between properties. The screen should effectively shield the view between properties. Betty seconded, unanimously approved.

8:00 p.m. 30 Boltwood Walk

Nathaniel summarized status of property. Attendees: Larry Farber, Barbra Bodzin, unit #2 owners; Joseph Bowman, co-owner unit #1, which is proposing addition; Brian Covel, Pioneer Valley Pizza, co-owner unit #1; Laura Fitch, drawings. Joseph Bowman summarized project and Laura Fitch described the addition's architecture, with dialog with commission members. Nathan summarized the Commission's activity to date and reminded all of the recent Local Historic District passage, and its implications for setting a precedent. Commission members discussed the impact of the addition on the building's architectural integrity, and Michael summarized the Commission's role. Lynda moved to write a memo to the ZBA that, after careful deliberation, the Commission's found it a complex and unprecedented situation that could become a Local Historic District test case, and therefore that we need more time to study it. Meg seconded, unanimously

approved.

4. New Business

a. Civil War Tablets

The Commission viewed two candidate Town Hall locations for the tablets - the Town Room and the first floor lobby. Lynda moved that all tablets be mounted as a group on the south wall of the Town Room, with the four larger ones mounted one above each other, one on each side of the central door. Meg seconded, passed unanimously.

b. Commission Membership

Not discussed.

c. Local Historic District

Not discussed.

d. Demolition Delay Applications

i. 16 Bridge Street

The Commission approved demolition, constructively granted, with commission members to visit, and Meg to document it.

e. FY2011 Annual Report

Not discussed.

f. Other

5. Old Business

Not discussed.

6. Next Meetings

TBD

7. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn passed unanimously.