

Amherst Historical Commission
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
Wednesday, April 8, 2015
First Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall
7:15 p.m.

Present: Mike Henke (chair), Laura Lovett, Meg Vickery, Nathaniel Malloy (Staff liaison)

1. Staff introduced the newest member of the Commission, Jan Marquardt
2. No minutes from the last meeting were available.

New Business:

- a. New member welcomed.
- b. CPA:
 - i. Staff reported that the Jewish Community Center has withdrawn their application for CPA funding. Town Meeting may question the Amherst Historical Society's request for an archeological survey and the painting of the Strong House. The request for funds to repair and preserve the Cook Fountain in Switzer Park may also be questioned as it is quite high but includes replacing both marble and the water pump system. Goodwin Church is requesting approval to fund the Assessment. Overall, the Commission felt that funding prospects are good as no requests are too controversial.
 - ii. The Commission reviewed that continuing balances from CPA funding. Still outstanding is the landscaping in the cemetery and signage which are on hold pending development of 1 East Pleasant. The Civil War tablets still have no home. West Street barn has estimates from contractors and should get started this spring. Amherst Media has only raised ½ of their funds so far. Questions arose about the landscaping for the cemetery. The funds are there, but how it would be designed and maintained is still unresolved. Staff will email around the plan by Martha Lyons from some years back. The town tomb is done.
- c. Easement for Amherst History Mural:
From 2004. HC needs to approve an amended easement and enter into an agreement about the recreation and preservation of the Mural. Do we want to specify lighting, access?
- d. PARC Grant for North Common and Public Forum:
The Commission reviewed two schemes for design of the North Common from the town. Staff explained that these plans were not in any way final but were drawn up as part of the grant process. If the grant is received, then more careful plans would be drawn up. Mike had grave reservations about the 2 schemes. He wants to be sure that the HC will have a say as the process moves forward. Jan mentioned that if it is clear that the HC is okay with the general ideas around restoring the North Common, and that better plans

will be created with public input, then that should be okay. Jan favored plan A, which was the simpler design and does not wed us to anything specific. It was agreed that there should be more public charrettes and a commission member on the committee charged with choosing the landscape architect. Staff will email out the Olmsted plans.

- e. Review demolition requests: 134 Montague Road, Cowl's Barn. It has been almost a year since the commission ordered a demolition delay on the barn. Cost of stabilization is \$200,000 +. Neither the Hatfield Farm Museum or the Dickinson Homestead have money to rebuild the barn on their properties. Staff will meet with Cinda and Molly about any possible solutions.
- f. Public Outreach: Laura asked about out CPAC goals, criteria. Mike tried to get publicity for the preservation awards without much success. Need greater publicity for the Writers walk and access to signage.
- g. Membership: is still a problem. Members agreed to ask around and try and recruit. Staff will try Elaine Sunshower and Meg will try Jay Watson.

Meet was adjourned at 9:20 pm

Next meeting: May 12, 7:15 pm