

Amherst Historical Commission
PUBLIC MEETING
Monday, September 12, 2016
South Meeting Room #101, Bangs Community Center
7:00 p.m.

Members present: Steve Bloom, Laura Lovett, Janet Marquardt, Ted Parker, Robert Romer, Jane Wald

Staff present: Jonathan Tucker

Guests: George Myers, Carl Weber, Todd Holland

1. Announcements

None

2. Minutes – August 31, 2016

Ms. Marquardt moved and Mr. Bloom seconded, to accept minutes of the Historical Commission's August 31, 2016, meeting as presented. The Commission voted 5-0-2 to accept the minutes.

**3. Demolition Delay Public Hearing
1095 West Street, Hampshire College**

Demolition of the Ives house and outbuildings

Public Hearing opened at 7:15.

At its meeting on August 31, AHC voted to hold a public hearing on the demolition request to assess public interest in a structure situated so close to the public way.

Carl Weber, new director of facilities at Hampshire College, requested a continuance of public hearing to some time in later October in order to assemble necessary information concerning structures to be demolished.

Mr. Parker moved, Ms. Marquardt seconded, to continue to public hearing on October 26 at 7 pm. The Commission voted 7-0-0 in favor of the continuance.

4. Demolition Delay - Preliminary Reviews

- a. 162 Farview Way, Replacement of chimney & creation of new basement entrance.
Owner Juan Jiminez requests a demolition permit to remove masonry chimney, to be replaced with high efficiency chimney, and to cut through exterior masonry wall for a code-compliant egress door. Modifications are intended to bring basement rental apartment in ranch-style house built approximately 1962 up to code.

Wald moved, Bloom seconded, to hold a public hearing on the demolition request. The Commission voted 0-7-0 on the motion, deciding against holding a public hearing.

5. New Business

- a. Amherst Cinema request re solar installation

Amherst Cinema requests a letter of support from the Amherst Historical Commission to the Massachusetts Historical Commission so that the state commission can recommend release of Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Funds for rooftop solar array.

George Myers, Amherst Cinema General Manager, described location of proposed solar panels as almost entirely on the Cinema building's new construction (2001) and positioned at an angle that would make them less visible from the public way than existing solar panels.

Ms. Lovett moved, Ms. Wald seconded, to authorize chair to write letter of support for Amherst Cinema's project to Massachusetts Historical Commission. The Commission voted 7-0-0 in favor of the motion.

- b. West Cemetery 1870 section headstone restorations – Update
Mr. Tucker reported that he met with a representative from Daedalus Inc. about the restoration project. He anticipates receiving an estimate for proposed work in the near future.
- c. Community Preservation Act Committee Draft Plan – Review & revision
The Commission reviewed and approved edits to draft plan discussed at August 31 meeting. Revisions will be presented to CPAC at their meeting of September 13, 2016.
- d. Other items not anticipated

UMass Horse Barn relocation

The Massachusetts Historical Commission responded to the University of Massachusetts' Project Notification for relocation of the University's 1894 Horse Barn with a request for additional information about the new site and details about which parts of the building will be re-used and which will be replicated. The Amherst Historical Commission received a copy of the MHC request for information. Commission members agreed that the content of the letter of endorsement to UMass authorized at its August 31 meeting should include requests for the correspondence between UMass and MHC and the additional information sought by MHC (described above).

6. Old Business

- a. Thompson Memorial sign – Update
Mr. Romer reported that he and Mr. Tucker visited Dorsey Memorials to discuss changes to the size of the interpretive sign and are awaiting Dorsey's response on the cost estimate.
- b. Writers Walk signs – Update
Mr. Tucker reported that he sought comment from Guildford Mooring, Superintendent of Public Works, concerning the Writers Walk signs. Mr. Mooring's only concern was that, for signs on town property, the setback be sufficient to allow for effective sidewalk

snowplowing in the winter. Mr. Tucker suggested that Commission members may want to meet with Jim Brassord, Amherst College Director of Facilities, about signs on College property.

c. Amherst Preservation Plan – Draft Preservation Actions Review

Ms. Lovett moved, Ms. Marquardt seconded, that the Commission approve the updated Preservation Plan. The Commission voted 7-0-0 in favor of approval.

d. Other items not anticipated

Massachusetts Historical Commission letter to Town Manager, August 31, 2016

MHC sent a letter dated August 31, 2016, to Town Manager Paul Bockelman, about plans for the Jones Library renovation, demolition, and new addition. The letter stated that:

1. information submitted to MHC indicated that the “Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) awarded the Town of Amherst (Town) a grant for a proposed renovation, demolition, and new addition project.”
2. MHC has received requests for the status of its review of the proposed project, but that it has received not yet received any information about the project.
3. that the Town must submit photographs, plans and elevations, and a Project Notification Form for the project.

The Commission reviewed its responsibilities as a local historical commission and the procedures related to public buildings listed on the state and national registers of historic places and that are constituent properties of a national historic register district. The Commission noted that:

1. in this planning phase, the Jones Library is not out of compliance with procedures outlined in Massachusetts General Laws or the National Historic Preservation Act;
2. the Jones Library is scheduled to make a presentation of schematic plans to the Commission, open to the public, on September 27 at 7:00 pm;
3. appropriate procedural steps, including those outlined in MHC’s letter of August 31, will be followed by the local historical commission and other Town boards and commissions in due course.

[Note: AHC’s newly approved Preservation Plan states explicitly that it will “participate with the Jones Library design committee in developing an historically appropriate design for library expansion.”]

7. Next Meetings

September 27, 2016, at 7:00 pm for presentation about Jones Library schematic design.

October 12, 2016, at 7:00 pm

October 26, 2016, at 7:00 pm, for public hearing concerning demolition request for 1095 West Street.

8. **Adjournment at 8:43 pm.**