

Amherst Historical Commission
PUBLIC MEETING
Monday, March 14, 2016
First Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall
7:00 p.m.

Present: Steve Bloom, Bob Romer, Jane Wald, Meg Vickery, Jonathan Tucker (staff liaison)

Absent: Jan Marquardt

Guests: Nonny Burack

Meeting brought to order at 7:04 p.m.

1. Announcements

None

2. Minutes

Minutes of February 22, 2016, not available prior to the meeting and will be distributed with March 14, 2016, minutes.

3. Demolition Delay – 1555 South East Street barn/shed

Demolition request was not received by time of meeting. Commission expects to receive and act upon demolition request at its next meeting.

4. New Business

- A. Amherst Shade Tree Committee. Guest Nonny Burack, member of Public Shade Tree Committee, presented letter being given to Select Board, Planning Board, and Historical Commission requesting a stipulation from the Town that developers of One East Pleasant Street take all measures available to protect the roots of trees on southeast edge of the property bordering the north side of West Cemetery.
- B. FY17 Historic Preservation Projects Recommended by the Community Preservation Act Committee for funding at Town Meeting
1. Thompson memorial – review of proposed text. Strike “In Memoriam.” Add on reverse “in the Civil War.”
 2. Due diligence funding approved. Mr. Tucker working to arrange meeting with owners of Hallock properties to pursue consultant’s evaluation of structures.
 3. Two deadlines for Town Meeting mailings: April 5 and 21. Need to prepare educational material for inclusion in mailings to Town Meeting members. Members can draft individual paragraphs and send to Ms. Wald to compile.
 4. Summer Projects: Mr. Tucker proposed, and unanimous support obtained for educational presentation to the Community Preservation Act Committee about the history of historic preservation as a federal, state, and local government concern and the development of historic preservation principles.

C. Other CPA Issues – CPA Plan Historic Preservation Summary

The summary is organized into types of products rather than specific projects.

Motion (Wald), second (Bloom) to approve the CPA Plan Historic Preservation Summary, as revised, and to communicate to the CPA Committee, and voted 5-0.

D. Letters

1. Dickinson Museum AAB Variance Request. Motion (Lovett) and second (Bloom) to authorize Chair to compose and send letter to MAAB, and voted 5-0.
2. Notification of UMass Fine Arts Center Solar Array System Installation.
3. Notification from Federal Energy Regulatory Commission of consultation with Narragansett Indian Tribe.

5. Old Business

A. Project Updates:

1. Writers' Walk Sign Design and Text. Agreed to remove David Grayson from 219 Amity Street and focus his recognition on his adult residence. Discussion of font size and style for legibility at the height of three feet from ground resulted in agreement on previously selected font. Discussion of using photographs on porcelain ceramic substance resulted in agreement on proceeding with use of photographic images on selected substance for monument images.
2. Other projects underway – Draft language for new demolition delay by-law being drafted by Steve Bloom and Bob Romer.

B. Amherst Preservation Plan – Preservation Actions Update

An updated draft was presented to the Commission. Agreed to expand language about utilizing the “Chamber of Commerce” to promote the Town’s historic tourism assets (p. 4) to include Hampshire County Regional Tourism Council and the Amherst Business Improvement District.

Agreed that Commission members will review the updated Preservation Plan and bring to the next meeting preferences for preservation priorities in the next few years.

6. Next Meeting

Monday, April 4, 2016, 7 pm

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm