

*Amherst Historical Commission*  
**PUBLIC MEETING**  
**Monday, April 4, 2016**  
**First Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall**  
**7:00 p.m.**

Present: Steve Bloom, Laura Lovett, Ted Parker, Bob Romer, Jane Wald; Senior Planner Jonathan Tucker (staff liaison)  
Absent: Jan Marquardt, Meg Vickery  
Guests: Randy Paul (contractor, 1555 South East Street), Edith Howes (homeowner, 543 South Pleasant Street)

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by member Laura Lovett serving as Acting Chair.

**1. Announcements**

New member of the Historical Commission, Ted Parker, was present for his first meeting.

**2. Minutes**

Minutes of the March 14, 2016, meeting will be presented for approval at the Commission's next meeting.

**3. Demolition Delay - Preliminary Reviews**

a. 1555 South East Street - workshop & shed

Guest: Randy Paul, contractor. Demolition permit was issued in June 2014, but not used before expiration in June 2015. Owner is reapplying for demolition permit. Mr. Tucker reported that elements of the workshop and shed were salvaged from earlier structures, but that the building in question was constructed in the twentieth century, perhaps around 1950. Motion (Wald) and voted 5-0 to dispense with demolition delay hearing.

b. 543 South Pleasant Street - shed (henhouse)

When the current owners purchased the property, the shed was in poor condition and has since deteriorated further. The owners do not plan to replace it with another structure. The shed was constructed after 1970, replacing a larger (30' x 30') henhouse in the same location. Motion (Romer), second (Bloom) and voted (5-0) to dispense with demolition delay hearing. Owner was asked to send photos of the interior as documentation.

c. 73 Main Street - shed

The shed is in poor condition and the roof is unstable. The small structure is occasionally used as impromptu shelter by homeless persons. The owner does not plan to replace it with another structure. Motion (Wald), second (Parker), voted (5-0) to dispense with public demolition delay hearing.

**4. New Business**

a. FY17 CPAC-Recommended Projects:

AHC Report to Town Meeting – Commission members discussed further edits to draft report. Final report will be submitted for April 18<sup>th</sup> deadline for inclusion in the second mailing of Town

Meeting materials.

b. Other CPA Issues:

- i. Possible FY18 CPA request – West Cemetery 1870 section headstone restorations.  
Commission members discussed and informally supported preparing for a FY18 CPA request for restoration of headstones in the 1870 section of the cemetery. Also discussed landscape and security lighting improvements. Priority to be determined in update of Amherst Preservation Plan.
- ii. Summer Project – Historical preservation tutorial for CPAC and other Town boards/committees. Commission members informally supported the idea of inviting Chris Skelly of MHC to give an introductory workshop about historic preservation for CPAC and other town boards, committees, including Local Historic District Study Committee, about a month before fall Town Meeting.

c. Historic Properties not Inventoried

Mr. Tucker proposed, and Commission members informally agreed that an MHC Inventory Form B be completed and filed for the building occupied by The Common School. The building was originally a private home (1914) built by the Carruth family of Boston, which they named “The Larches.”

**5. Old Business**

Amherst Preservation Plan – Preservation Actions Update Review

Commission members discussed next steps to take with the Town’s Preservation Plan and agreed that the update document prepared by Mr. Tucker be reorganized into “Actions accomplished” and “Actions to be implemented.” The resulting action list should then be prioritized, perhaps with public meeting input, and placed on a general schedule for implementation.

**6. Next Meeting:**

April 27, 2016, at 7 pm.

**7. Adjourned at 8:27 p.m.**