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9/8/2025*

Amesbury Historical Commission
Town Hall • Friend Street
Amesbury, MA 01913

Amesbury Historical Commission (AHC) Meetings Minutes

Meeting Date: August 7, 2025

Location: Amesbury Council on Aging Senior Center, 68 Elm Street, Amesbury MA

Commissioners Present: Joe Finn, Chair, Chris Akelian, Dick Joltes, Steve Klomps, Christopher Lane, Jay Williamson

Also in attendance: Staff from the Office of Community & Economic Development

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM

1. Review of past meeting minutes:

- a. Minutes for the May 1, 2025 meeting were previously submitted by Malcolm Rutter for review. Steve made a motion to accept the revised meeting minutes which was seconded by Dick. The motion was passed by a vote of 5-0. (Jay missed the first vote).
- b. Minutes for the July 10, 2025 meeting were submitted by Steve for review with a longer and detailed version and a more abridged version. Christopher Lane made a motion to accept the abridged meeting minutes. This version excludes material that is not necessary for a vote. Joe agrees that the shorter version is more appropriate. Christopher Lane agrees unless the longer version contains items that will come back to the AHC in which case we would want it included. The motion was seconded by Dick Joltes. The motion was passed by a vote of 6-0.

2. Correspondence:

- a. Jay Williamson reporting that Community Preservation Committee (CPC) will meet on 9/17/2025. They have had 4 meetings since April to discuss topics such as:
 - i. Wiring of the Community Preservation Act (CPA) – getting into the system, accounts, voting on due process and procedures.
 - ii. Structure – How do we want people to present? When will they propose? What material do they need? When will it begin accepting applications? Etc..
- b. The CPA is meant to promote historic preservation, affordable housing and open space.
- c. Jay is looking for a representative from the AHC to give background and vision of the AHC to CPC members. Joe will be the designated person to attend and Dick will try if he is available. All AHC members are invited.

3. 15 Sparhawk Street – Representatives of the condo association Michael Harold and M. Lea Cabeen are seeking approval for a renovation plan to add snow fences to the roof above the gutters on the left side of the building above the walkway and the back area above the rear entrance.
 - a. There is a preservation restriction in place and that is why they are seeking approval from the AHC.
 - b. 3 of the 4 buildings in the St. Joseph's Church complex have snow restraints – a 3-rail fence near the roofline. Some places have snow guards.
 - c. The first 2 winter there were no big snowstorms but last year had major snow slides which damaged cars. This is a safety issue.
 - d. Previously, the roof was in decent shape so it was only repaired. Jay McPartland did the roof work.
 - e. The fencing will be 3-rail stainless steel and will look like the others in regard to railings, fittings and couplings.
 - f. Christopher L. makes a motion to approve. Jay W. seconded the motion.

All in favor, the motion passes 6-0.

4. 45 Main Street (Fuller Building) – Owners are requesting a letter of support from the AHC for an application for tax credits from the state. Joe F. will sign off on a revised version of the letter. All AHC members are OK with this.
5. 38-44 Prospect Street – Owner Gino Rinaldi and his architect Scott Brown are looking for a determination of eligibility under the Historic Preservation bylaw.
 - a. Steve K. makes a motion to determine the structures as historically eligible for a Historic Preservation Special Permit application.
 - b. Dick J. seconded.
 - c. A well, accurate and informative MACRIS listing has been done since last meeting. AME 544 for 40-42 Prospect Street and AME 545 44-46 Prospect Street. Both built in 1921.
 - d. Columns have been squared from round with simpler balusters.
 - e. These are existing two 2-family houses. The empty lot at 38 Prospect Street will have a single family built.
 - f. They are proposing new dormers which would add a dormer to the north side of the northern house. All double-hung windows. Clad Marvin Elevate windows on the south house with simulated divided lights. They will be restoring the original windows on the other house. 6 over 1 lights.
 - g. They will be preserving and restoring the unique leaded stained-glass windows and doors.
 - h. They will be removing the awning windows in the back and infilling the wall.
 - i. There was discussion on whether chimneys should be retained. The original plan was to replace the chimney with a faux chimney to accommodate the new dormer. Steve states that the symmetry of the building would be more preferable. Either both houses should have a chimney or neither should have them. The chimneys are not significant for this style of structure.
 - i. Christopher L. – agrees.

- ii. Dick J. –agrees.
- iii. Jay W. – By museum thinking it is frowned upon to have faux elements.
- j. The north house is in good shape and will be restored. The south house will receive new windows and siding.

All in favor, the motion passes 6-0.

- 6. Historic Commission – Workflows and deadlines.
 - a. All material due 2 weeks in advance of meetings to give commissioners enough time for review. Applicants will need to present what has been submitted rather than submit one application and present on work that may have been done in between submission and meetings.
 - b. Christopher L. makes a motion to add the workflow changes and submission deadlines a thru b for further protocols for submissions. Steve K. seconded.

All in favor, the motion passes 6-0.

Joc F. – This is a good move to give member enough time to review application packets.

- 7. Proposed change to the definition of “demolition” in Article 40.2 in bylaws.
 - a. Christopher L – Revised definition is more in line with other communities.
 - b. Joe F. – Doesn’t like the “removal of 25%”. This could result in the removal of the most significant architectural elements.
 - c. Steve K. – How do additions play into the calculation of 25% or substantial?
 - d. Discussion to be continued at a future meeting.
- 8. Adjournment.
 - a. Steve K. makes a motion to adjourn.
 - b. Jay W. seconded.

All in favor, the motion passes 6-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 PM.

Respectively submitted,
Chris Akelian