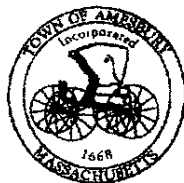


RECEIVED

By City Clerk at 1:45 pm, May 15, 2025

Approved 4/3/2025



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

Amesbury Historical Commission (AHC) Meetings Minutes

Meeting Date: March 6, 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

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

Meeting called to order at 7:07 PM

1. Review of past meeting minutes:
 - a. Minutes for the November 11, 2024 meeting were submitted by Steve Klomps on behalf of Malcolm Rutter in his absence for review. Steve made a motion to accept the meeting minutes as submitted which was seconded by Christopher Lane. The motion was passed by a vote of 5-0.
 - b. Minutes for the February 13, 2025 meeting were submitted by Steve Klomps for review. Christopher Lane made a motion to accept the meeting minutes with minor typographical corrections. The motion was seconded by Dick Joltes. The motion was passed by a vote of 5-0.
2. No correspondence.
3. 201 Elm Street – Greg Southard is present and applying for a Historic Preservation Special Permit (Listed in MACRIS AME.281)
 - a. Steve Klomps made a motion to find the original structure at 201 Elm Street to be historically significant.
 - b. Dick Joltes seconded the motion.
 - c. The commission had previously met regarding the wing at the back of the house and determined that the main house/original structure is historically significant.

All in favor, the motion passes 5-0.

4. 58 Pleasant Valley Road – Michael Dunn is present and applying for full demolition permit.

- a. Michael has been the owner for 2 years. He has spoken to the building inspector. It has a stone façade on the foundation walls. The roof structure does not look more than 75 years old. It has vinyl windows and the construction is not quality work.
- b. The front entrance was relocated in 1997.
- c. The porch was enclosed in 2019.
- d. Steve states that it was the one and only firehouse for the neighborhood.
- e. OCED staff provided the below information:
 - i. The structure was rebuilt in 1905.
 - ii. The current structure is compromised and does not contain a lot of historical material.
- f. The process was explained to the applicant:
 - i. It could be deemed not historically significant or,
 - ii. It could be deemed historically significant and to be either preferably preserved or not preferably preserved.
- g. Steve – according to the guidelines of the National Register of Historical Places, is the site or structure of significance? It must have good surviving characteristics to qualify it as historically significant. Based on that rationale Steve makes a motion that the structure is not historically significant.
- h. The motion was seconded by Dick Joltes.
- i. Christopher Lane asks whether if the structure is found historically not significant, does the original footprint need to remain or would the whole thing be torn down?
- j. Joe Finn – The whole thing could be torn down but it would need to be determined by the building inspector.
- k. The applicant states that he plans to rebuild on the same footprint with a small addition in the back but new. He plans on keeping the Victorian aesthetic of the town.

The motion was passed with a vote of 5-0.

5. 5 and 9 School Street (#5 is listed in MACRIS AME.25)
 - a. OCED staff provides the commission with a minor update on the project. RFP is almost done. They are hoping to have responses within 60 days.
6. OCED staff – asks if it would be helpful to include prior meeting minutes in the application packets that are sent out to the commission to give members the chance to review them prior to the meetings.
 - a. Also, in regards to HPSP applications – we want to be able to make a determination on historic significance without any influence on how a HPSP project is presented.
7. Dick Joltes makes a motion to adjourn the meeting with Steve Klomps seconding.
 - a. Vote is 5-0 all in favor of adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM.

Respectively submitted,
Chris Akelian