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Amesbury Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: January 8, 2026

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

Commissioners Present: Joe Finn- Chair, Chris Akelian, Dick Joltes, Steve Klomps, Malcolm Rutter, Christopher Lane, Jay Williamson, Jennifer Welter
Staff: Meghan Fahey

Meeting Called to Order at 7:05 PM

1. Minutes for the December 4, 2025 meeting were reviewed. Steve motioned to adopt the minutes as submitted, seconded by Malcolm. Passed 7-0
2. Correspondence: None
3. Annual Report Draft Discussion was tabled to later in the meeting considering the number of people on the agenda. Motioned Steve and seconded by Malcolm. Passed 7-0
4. 19 Prospect Street – Historic Preservation Special Permit preliminary presentation by Eileen Graf of Graf Architects
1870s Italianate house with a 1950s addition in a 19th/20th c neighborhood.
 - a. Hope to improve site and add an addition structure by filling in a void (portion of undeveloped lot) with a 2 ½ story Greek Revival style structure
 - b. Eileen introduced the project for a preservation restriction to allow for an additional structure.
 - c. Discussion over eligibility. Steve goes into details about its history. Commission was in general positive regarding its possibility to become listed for special permit when the time comes.
5. (5) and (9) School Street- Historic Preservation Special Permit Presentation by Matt Landis
 - a. Intent to convert 9 School Street into (6) family dwelling unit with (2) units being on each of (3) floors
 - b. Review of finer points of 9 School St (former Ordway School).
 - c. 9 School Street- Steve motions that 9 School Street meets the guidelines for historic eligibility for the Historic Preservation Special Permit, seconded by Chris A. Passed 7-0

d. Discussion of 5 School Street. Full demolition permit has been filed. Plan to raze 5 School Street and build a structure of similar size/ style in its place maintaining or restoring key architectural elements. Motion to find 5 School Street Historically significant made by Dick seconded by Steve.

Property will be on the February 5 agenda for determination regarding preservation status assuming all public notice requirements are fulfilled by applicant.

6. 14 Maple Street- Historic Preservation Special Permit Presentation by Matt Landis – a preliminary introduction for a development project and is looking for guidance.

- a. Make the existing 13,000 Square foot lot into two lots.
- b. 14 Maple Street is a Queen Anne house known as the Frank Todd House

For the new construction:

- 1. Jay made suggestions to push back dormer / not to align with first floor
- 2. Steve felt there were unnecessary features in the new construction proposed. Something plainer would be more fitting for the period and less Greek Revival.
- c. Steve motions that 14 Maple Street is meets the requirements of “historic eligibility” for the Historic Preservation Special Permit, seconded by Dick. Passed 7-0

7. 2-4 Elmwood St. Preliminary Introduction in Process for Project and looking for guidance for the (2) family renovation on a .31 acre parcel of land.

- a. Presentation regarding project which includes a renovation which will offer the second unit with garage.
- b. Commission members listened to presentation however the project is not yet ready to request a Historic Preservation Special Permit.

8. 230-234 Main Street. Historic Preservation Special Permit Request. Presented by Lisa Mead of Green St. Newburyport together with the owner and a representative from Phoenix Architects

- a. Presentation: Lisa describes a history of the property as well as the owner’s intent to preserve 230 Main St were it will become a (4) unit dwelling plus (1) additional in a proposed carriage house. 234 Main Street would be razed.
- b. Steve disagreed with the presenter’s age of 234 Main St stating reasons why it was a different structure described and that 234 dates to a century earlier.
- c. In the next February meeting there will be a need for (2) votes: (1) for 230 Main Street’s “historic eligibility” for Historic Preservation Special Permit as well as a public hearing for 234 Main Street’s preservation status. 234 Main Street property will be on

the February 5 agenda for determination regarding preservation status assuming all public notice requirements are fulfilled by applicant.

d. Steve made a motion to find the dwelling at 234 Main Street “historically significant” and seconded by Chris L. Passed 7-0

9. Back to (3) Annual Report Discussion.

a. Steve motions to continue discussion until February, seconded by Chris A.. Passed 7-0

10. Malcolm motions to adjourn 8:42. Seconded by Steve. Passed 7-0

Respectfully submitted, Jay Williamson