



TOWN HALL  
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HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Little Red Schoolhouse Preservation Committee  
FROM: Amherst Historical Commission  
RE: Little Red Schoolhouse Closing  
DATE: January 9, 2012

At its December 6, 2011 meeting the Amherst Historical Commission heard a presentation by the Little Red Schoolhouse Preservation Committee about their concern for the preservation of the schoolhouse. Amherst College, owner of the building, has asked the preschool program to vacate the premises by July 2012 because of planned construction for a new science center. Although Amherst College has not applied for a Demolition Permit or indicated that the building will be removed from its current location, the Preservation Committee worries that the school will be demolished to make way for a new structure.

The Amherst Historical Commission believes that the schoolhouse is a noteworthy asset to the community because of its unique architectural design (expressly as a preschool) and because of its ongoing social and cultural connections after 75 years of operation on campus in the schoolhouse. The Commission therefore voted unanimously (7-0) to support the preservation of the schoolhouse. The Commission did not endorse a particular effort or strategy to preserve the building, rather, the vote was an affirmation that the future of the Little Red Schoolhouse is important to both the Town and community.

The Commission encouraged the Preservation Committee to continue conversations with Amherst College to learn more about the building's future and to help explain its connection to the broader community.

Cc: Historical Commission Members  
Dave Ziomek, Director of Conservation and Development  
Jonathan Tucker, Planning Director  
James Brassord, P.E., Director of Facilities, Amherst College