

# Calais Historical Preservation Commission

**Zoom only meeting – Attendees:** David Schutz; Larry Bush; Susannah Blachly; Tobin Anderson; Ryan Edwards; Jarrod Weiss

The meeting was called to order by David Schutz at 7:16 p.m. Minutes initially taken by Larry Bush, who evidently does not understand the almost Aristotelian beauty of nested bullet points.

1. **Election of Officers** was deferred until later in the meeting.
2. **Approval of the minutes** of the February 13, 2024, meeting was deferred to the next meeting.
3. David informed members that Calais and East Montpelier Historical Societies are hosting **sugar-on-snow at the Town Hall** on Monday, March 18, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. complimented by a discussion with maple specialist Henry Marckres, retired from the Vermont Agriculture Department.
4. The nominations for **the Preservation Trust of Vermont's preservation awards** have been completed and submitted to Karen Freeman, who is coordinating the nomination. Jarrod Weis wrote the section on Town Hall; Ryan Edwards wrote the ones on Memorial Hall and East Calais; David Schutz did the Old West Church and the Robinson Sawmill. Karen will edit the submissions, probably severely, to get under the word count limits.

The **Preservation Trust of Vermont's annual meeting** is June 5, 2024, in Bellows Falls, VT. The awards will be given out at that event. Ryan Edwards will be moderating a panel on the East Calais Community Store and Memorial Hall. His panel's speakers include Rep. Marc Mihaly and David Schutz. David will ask Devin Colman, the State Architectural Historian at the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, if it would be possible for us to use funds from our active CLG grant to pay the registration fees for Calais HPC members who wish to attend the ceremony.
5. There was a brief discussion about the **Curtis Pond Dam**. David said that this month is a critical one for the project. They are working with the dam construction contractor in an effort to get cost reductions.
6. Larry gave a brief report on the **Adamant community initiative**. The organizers are in the process of arranging a community meeting to discuss the various possibilities that have been identified, as well as others that participants might

have.

### **Calais Town History Tour.**

- Suggestions from the Commission, having skimmed the first draft of the script:
  - We need to interface with the property owners who might be affected to let them know what we're doing – and we should provide a reminder in the audio guide that some of these properties are private, and to stay on trails, respect signs, etc.
  - The driving directions should be included in the audio tour, so that people's attention isn't distracted by the need to toggle to Google Maps (which might not work anyway, given the poor signal in town).
  - Abenaki: Tobin has reached out to Chief Don Stevens regarding the need to hire a consultant to write the sections on the Abenaki presence in town; Calais is within his area of jurisdiction. David says Don is very busy, and makes a couple of other suggestions:
    - Carol McGranaghan (Barre) ... previous chair of Council of Native American Affairs.
    - Fred Wiseman has long been Vermont's leading Abenaki scholar. He helped David develop text for the Abenaki exhibit in the lobby of the State House.
    - David will send Carol's contact info.
  - Larry: Could we add some contemporary references? Local color. For example, mention the Christmas Eve service in Old West ... and the fact that the Fire Marshal won't allow us to use the wood stoves – so it's as cold as it was before 1831. Make a little plug for the stores. Note that most of Calais still gets its electricity from Washington Electric Coop.
  - Larry will amend a sentence about the town forest trails.
- We should have select members of the community look at the script before we finalize it. We should get a list of citizen-consultants together by the next meeting.
- Susannah and Ryan will work on the visual guide when Susannah gets back from Mexico in April.
- Commissioners can take a deeper look at the script and see if there are any suggestions.
- Susannah and Tobin will come up with a timeline for the project.

### **Electing Officers.**

- Motion for a slate of officers: Tobin Anderson as Chair; Larry Bush as Vice Chair; and Jarrod Weiss as Secretary. Motion by David Schutz, Seconded by Susannah Blachly.
- Motion passed unanimously.
- We still need more people on the Commission. Please continue to think of potential people.

### **Concerns about the Community.**

- East Calais dam has not been discussed recently.

**Adjourned by unanimous acclamation at 8:32 pm.**

