

# Calais Historical Preservation Commission

## September 11, 2024 - Calais Town Hall

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

The meeting was called to order by Tobin Anderson at 7:04pm

1) Approval of minutes of August 14, 2024 meeting. David S moved, Larry B seconded. No changes. Unanimously approved.

2) Update on the Historic Driving Tour: Editing and polishing work is starting with Erica Heilman. There is concern from Susannah about the current music being used and moving forward. Susannah will be working this weekend on finishing the music and wants to make sure the fiddle tune she has been working on is included. Tobin talked about anxiety about timing, including the need to have checks written and a report filed that shows those payments by the end of the month (September) to receive the funding. Tobin also mentioned the landing page website being worked on by Sarah Black and Sarah mentioned there is a template for the town website and that might prevent a more varied design to the website. Tobin mentioned the possibility of a separate website outside of the town website, but that would cost some more and with time constraints is concerning. David talked about the process for getting payment for those who have done work - they simply invoice the town and the town will pay. Then, once paperwork is submitted to the Division of Historic Preservation the town will be reimbursed. The concern is completing the project within the timeline to the CLG grant and ensuring that all elements are complete as required and on time. Conversation about the best path forward regarding an external website and what is going to work best, but also within our timeframe. Tobin is going to talk with Sarah about what we can do outside of the town website and see if she is interested in helping us with that. If not, we can go in another direction, but want to give Sarah the opportunity to move with this creatively. Susannah has been talking to John McCullough about his work in helping create sketches of buildings/architecture, but has not fully connected yet. Larry mentioned that we have to understand that we will need to make changes over time, which is not a bad thing. Susannah asked about the ability of Erica Heilman to make changes in the future to audio and Tobin believed that it was. Tobin reviewed the budget for the project: Audio Design/Engineering \$3250, Design \$2500, Abenanki Liaison \$300, Photographer \$300. Consensus was that getting a separate, outside website created and hosted was the best possible direction to take. In the future, we need to make sure that if we take this course with a website that it is paid for through the town (with the grant funds) and able to be maintained in the future. Members listened to a few of the first edits of audio sections. Tobin talked about a change to the beginning of some of the audio and he will send that to Susannah who will work on the change in the next day.

3) Resident concern as communicated through Larry Bush about the Maple Corner Historic District. Daniel Keeny expressed concern about what the designation means for property owners. Jarrod is going to speak with him and relay the information - no restrictive designation, currently in the state being digested by the bureaucracy, just a education tool to help residents understand the district, design overlay district - not an automatic part of the national register, Calais chose to have this designation shouldn't have any negative effect. Daniel wants to know where things stand - and there is a long process in the state and it's hung up right now.

4) Tobin discussed a walk through the Bliss Family Gravesite. It is an old site, the area has no real path to travel to, and is in serious disrepair. A future grant project could be the restoration of this gravesite and should be a consideration of the Calais Cemetery Commission.

5) Tobin discussed the status of the Friends of Calais Town Hall. He has tried to reach out to them to discuss the Town Hall, but has not been able to get in contact. There are possibly future grants, but concern about the status of the Friends of Calais Town Hall might have a negative impact on those grants.

**Larry motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ryan. Unanimous. Meeting ended at 8:33pm.**