

TOWN OF CALAIS
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES
September 14, 2022

Meeting called to order at 7:07pm.

Present: David Schütz (Chair), Larry Bush (Vice Chair), Tobin Anderson (*Virtual*), Susannah Blachly, Ryan Edwards, Reed Cherington (Guest)

1. AGENDA REVISIONS AND ADDITIONS

- The meeting Agenda was unanimously approved.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

- The minutes of the last meeting were unanimously approved.
- Larry inquired with Tobin if he has been providing the meeting minutes to the Town for upload onto the Town's website. He stated that he has not. Larry noted that Tobin should reach out to Jamie Moorby (calaiswebmaster@gmail.com), the Town's webmaster, about protocol for providing meeting minutes following committee meetings. Larry emphasized that proper procedure must be followed in warning and holding meetings, as well as posting meeting minutes in a timely manner.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT (Sharing historic preservation concerns, information, or activities in the community)

- Reed Cherington, Guest, noted his concerns regarding the lack of a door between the Town Hall kitchen and the Calais Historical Society archive room. The concern stems from a lack of physical separation between a room where food is prepared (cooked) and important town artifacts and storage kept in the archive. He noted that he was voicing this concern as a citizen and not in his role as a member of the Historical Society.
- David noted that there have been some other concerns regarding Town Hall, including the painting and installation of the existing exterior shutters. He noted that as a member of the Friends of the Town Hall, he would convey this concern directly.
- Ryan shared an update on Memorial Hall. The building's looking great and work is nearing completion, though an exact completion date isn't known due to some components such as doors and millwork which are experiencing some delays as is common on most all projects right now. He recommended that although you cannot currently enter the building, it is absolutely worth taking a drive by soon to take a look – particularly now that the shrubs have been removed.

- David shared that the “Interplay” exhibit at Art at the Kent is open now through October 9th. He also shared that there will be an event celebrating the political career of Janet Ancel on Friday, September 23rd, with more information planned to be provided via Front Porch Forum soon.
4. UPDATE REGARDING 2021 CLG GRANT (Maple Corner Historic District National Register Nomination)
- Brian Knight is looking to complete the nomination within the next month. David asked all Commission members to review the latest draft and requested that we have all of our comments compiled by next Friday, September 23rd. The focus of comments should primarily focus on content and not so much on spelling and grammar, etc. – what is it missing, what is great? Constructive criticism is welcome.
5. 2022 CLG GRANT (Calais Town History Tour Project)
- Susannah made a general Commission comment that we should strive to assign certain blocks of time to agenda items with the intent of keeping the meeting to around an hour. Everyone agreed and going forward we will work to address this in our agendas.
 - Tobin gave a brief overview of the history tour project to Reed.
 - It was debated as to what would be best to discuss during tonight’s meeting, focusing on the outline that Susannah shared earlier via email:
 1. Should we organize the tour by chronology vs. geography?
 2. Should each village have a particular focus?
 3. How to incorporate learning about how to read the history of the town through buildings/architectural design?
 4. Should we start with developing a single village first to get a sense of how we should develop the others?
 5. How long should the whole tour last?
 - It was discussed that the Commission should review and provide additional feedback on tour order and Susannah’s questions as required.
 - Tobin mentioned that he envisioned having the map online (and available at local community establishments) with numbered locations. From there you would drive from site to site. Tobin will look into providing the map and tour online, especially in regards to what’s easiest to maintain on the site.
 - Technical issues will need to be addressed (lack of cell service in rural Calais), as well as determining how much time should be spent at each location. Tobin noted that he envisioned it taking about an hour.
 - David noted that perhaps the tour should be a combination of walking and driving. For example, some locations in town are easily walkable. Having a walkable component could also help in mitigating issues some will have with people slowly driving by their home.
 - David noted that perhaps Commission members should think about specific hamlets they are familiar with as a means of most efficiently reviewing the proposed items for each hamlet/village.

- It was discussed that some first person information should be provided on the tour.
- All agreed that it makes the most sense to begin developing the tour with a single village and that Kents' Corner would be the best to start with.
- David asked Reed who on the Calais Historical Society would be most helpful in providing input and ideas on the tour. Reed recommended reaching out to Donna Fitch about engaging the Historical Society.
- Susannah proposed that she and Tobin should create a bare bones framework for the tour such that the committee can have something substantive to provide feedback on.
- Next step action items:
 1. Tobin and Susannah meet to review framework
 2. Tobin to connect with town webmaster, Jamie Moorby, to review the technical side of having the tour accessible via the town's website
 3. Commission members should review specific village information meaningful to them and provide feedback or other applicable information

6. OTHER BUSINESS

- None

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 @ 7:00pm (Calais Town Hall)