

DRAFT

**Calais Historic Preservation
Commission**

November 10th, 2021

Present: David Schutz, Scott Bassage, Tobin Anderson, Susannah Blachly, Larry Bush, Karen Lane, Dirk Van Susteren

1. Agenda Revisions and Additions

- Susannah suggested that we assign times on agenda items.
- Scott agreed to limit agenda item 5 to five minutes.

2. Minutes of September Meeting.

- Scott moved approval of the October 13, 2021, minutes, Susannah seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Public Comment: Community Concerns / New Information.

- We agreed to try to finish by 8 PM.
- Kate E. Phillips is focusing on writing. She will revisit her decision to resign from CHPC after the dissertation is off her plate. We will keep Kate on email distribution list.
- Tobin suggests that CHPC take an interest in the Memorial Hall porches.

4. Adamant Historic District Application.

- The Vermont Advisory Council for Historic Preservation met on October 21st to consider the Adamant application. The council unanimously approved the application.
- Scott will check with the Town Treasurer on status of reimbursement
- Larry will contact Kate at Vermont Historical Society about how to make the oral history audio files available to the public. The files are on dropbox at:
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/nt0dy3wj10l1lrr/AABLjDNBIFc0L1RNflV9dIPRa?dl=0>
- Larry is working on getting the transcripts of the Oral History on the Town website.
- At the federal level, the National Park Service is obligated to respond to the application within two months.

- We should make sure we update the town on these approvals as they come in – and that we celebrate them.
- Scott has not received any more requests for more documents about the wrap up.
- By 2023, all five of Calais’s hamlets should be registered districts on the National Register!
- Listen to Susannah’s ghost story on “The Frequency” podcast of 10/29/2021.

5. Use of Drones to Document Historic Resources.

- Scott gave a five-minute visual presentation of a “Bird’s Eye” perspective of parts of Calais.
- We accepted Scott’s offer to provide Drone photos for any CHPC projects.

6. Maple Corner Historic District Application.

- David gave us an update on Brian Knight’s dates for going forward with the project.
 - Brian will devote his time to the project from November 15, 2021, through July 5, 2022.
 - David and Dirk will make arrangements for the Kickoff celebration on January 12, 2022, at the Maple Corner Community Center. A suggestion was favorably received that people be encouraged to bring treats made from recipes in the cookbooks written by “Mrs. Appleyard”, Louise Andrews Kent.
 - The first draft of the nomination document will be available by April 5, 2022.
 - CHPC will meet April 12, 2022, to review the First Draft.
 - Second Draft will be available May 3, 2022.
 - CHPC will meet May 11, 2022, to review the second draft.
 - The final draft will be available by June 6, 2022.
 - CHPC will forward the Draft to the Selectboard by June 20, 2022.
 - David will send the Final Draft to The Vermont Division for Historical Preservation by July 5, 2022.
 - David will work with Brian to find a date in early December 2021 for Dirk, Linda Gray and Steve Gallagher to meet with Brian.

7. Preparing Our Next CLG Application: A Driving Tour of Calais.

- We discussed finding alternate funding of about \$3-4,000 for the project but then accepted David’s offer to take over management and administration of the CLG grants.
- Scott stated for the record that he will not be involved in administration and management of CLG grants ever again. Scott will help with the budget form for this grant (only)
- Tobin and Susannah will work on the draft and then hand it off to David in mid-November. Tobin will be away from mid-November until about the middle of December.
- Tobin will talk to Erica Heilman, a Vermont podcast and radio producer, to get an estimate of the cost of a 30-minute podcast.
- Tobin will talk to the Calais Elementary School principal, Cat Fair, about if/how to involve elementary school students in the project.
- Scott will get estimates of the cost to produce a brochure and map.
- We began, but did not finish, a discussion of how we would distribute the brochure and map.

8. Other Business

- There was no “other business”

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM

Next meeting December 8, 2021.

---From October minutes:

- The (CLG) application is due on December 16th.
- Tobin and Susannah are spearheading it: a driving/walking architectural tour of the town, synthesizing all of the information that has turned up in the village histories that we’ve commissioned over the last several years.
- A great model is the Norwich Historical Society’s site, which includes not only several driving tours (downloadable as podcasts), but also a couple brief comic books for kids, an architectural scavenger hunt, and worksheets for kids (for example, how do you tell the probable age of a New England tombstone from the picture on it?).
- The Norwich site provides us with a sense of what’s possible – though it’s far more elaborate than what we need.
- Several possible media formats for our town tour: (1) a booklet / pamphlet with a map; (2) a map with numbers on it that are keyed to audio spiels on an app; (3) an app that includes the map too; (4) a continuous audio podcast that leads the listener from spot to spot (which was Norwich’s solution).
- Erlene Leonard actually had a map with historical dots marked out on it. We should find that and see if there’s anything there that might be of use.
- We should also see what would be interesting and useful to the local schools, especially for their local history units. We could reach out to the principal of Calais Elementary (Cat Fair).
- There already is a Maple Community Center driving tour brochure from many years ago. Some copies must still be around.
- *Action item:* Tobin will look for a copy of this previous tour.