

**CALAIS HISTORIC
PRESERVATION COMMISSION**
Meeting Minutes
May 2022

PRESENT: David Schutz, Larry Bush, Susannah Blachly, Tobin Anderson, Ryan Edwards, Toni Kaeding.

Minutes from the March Meeting: Approved unanimously.

Public Input:

- Toni Kaeding: Toni (who attended the meeting) is a Worcester resident – but owns property in Calais, especially surrounding the Ellis-Bruce Trail, which was a joint Worcester/Calais effort. Historic objects have been found in that region during a recent dispute over a proposed cell tower. Toni is offering them to us and raising the question of what might be done with the historic sites on the property.
 - There are two homesteads on the trail – the Bruce and the Ellis homesteads. The Bruce homestead includes a Bruce cemetery, with burials beginning around 1800. Only about 9 headstones are visible at the moment.
 - During the debate about the cell tower, the State Division of Historic Preservation became interested in the site and they're going to do a site visit soon.
 - The Bruce Cemetery is difficult to access via the Ellis trail but other trails can lead you there from the other direction.
 - Ellis homestead: the cellar hole is not in as good a shape, but there are many magnificent walls and the barn foundation is in very good condition. The barn is not attached to the house – it was set off a bit because they wanted it to be across the Calais line so they would get a tax break the year it was built.
 - Is there any interest in marking or describing these sites?
 - Also, is there any possibility that the gravestones could be exhumed? Many of them have been covered over time.
 - Tobin: The Cemetery Commission has worked with half-buried graveyards like this (the Bliss graveyard off George Road).
 - David: Also, the Old Cemetery Association – they have all kinds of resources for safely cleaning things.
 - Susannah: The Trail Commission is considering a walking tour of the trails – this might be an opportunity for them.
 - Toni will let us know when the state division is coming to look at the site.
 - There is one more grave site nearby in those woods: Sally Dugar.

Calais Town Tour CLG Grant Project:

- Susannah and Tobin have been working district by district, reviewing the National Register documents for each hamlet and creating a master list of topics that might be interesting to cover in the tour.
- Once this master list is completed, they will present it to the rest of the commission for discussion and try to winnow it down to focus on the items of most interest.
- Susannah: Is there a characterization of each district?
- David: For example, reading the industrial history in North Calais via the ruins.
- David: Be careful not to over-extend yourselves.
- A few specific questions:
 - Regarding the paths over near Old West: Paul Searles has done a lot of work with poor farms. Maybe that would shed light on the Bliss Pond Town Forest.
 - We need to try to get a response and buy-in from the Calais schools. When the school year is over, someone should re-approach Cat Fair.

Maple Corner NRHP Application / CLG Grant Project:

- Brian Knight has a family crisis going on right now, and cannot be here tonight as planned.
- We had made a decision to do the public event in June. ... So our next meeting will be the public introduction to the Maple Corner project on June 8th at the Maple Corner Community Center. A slide show that has already been put together by Brian and Steve Gallagher. There will be a Mrs. Appleyard dessert feast.
- In a week or so, Brian will get us a draft of the report. We should try to read it and compile our responses.
- We are hoping to include Curtis Pond a little bit in the Maple Corner district – because we're not sure that it could stand as an NR district on its own.

New Members:

- We need to replenish our numbers at this point. Within the last month, for unrelated reasons, Karen, Dirk, and Kate all separately determined that they can't continue to serve.
- We'll miss them all and what they brought to this committee!
- So we have three positions to fill. Be thinking of possible recruits!

Next Meeting: June 8th – at the Maple Corner Community Center, for our public meeting!