

Calais Historic Preservation Commission

November 8th, 2023

Present: David Schutz, Larry Bush, Tobin Anderson, Ryan Edwards, Susannah Blachly (by Zoom), Jarrod Weiss.

Minutes of the August Meeting: Approved unanimously.

2022 CLG Grant: Calais History Tour

- Susannah: We the texts of all the sites roughed out.
- We should do part of the architectural piece in a pdf that is downloadable.
- David suggests we use historic photographs, even documents.
 - Tobin: Perhaps, depending on our platform, we can associate photos with each podcast “episode.”
- **Action:** Susannah and Tobin will meet in a few weeks when first draft of the text version is complete.

Maple Corner National Register District

- Devin Colman says that we are on the agenda for the Advisory Council in April. The application won't even leave Vermont until after this.
- Olivia Gay would also like to contribute to the oral history of Maple Corner.
 - **Action:** David will follow up.

Calais Dams Update

- Curtis Pond Dam
 - It looks very promising for the Curtis Pond dam. That pond will be dealt with in the coming season. The amount of money needed is still in question. (Possibly \$1.2 million.) They seem very confident that they'll be able to make it.
 - Unclear whether the Curtis Pond Association needs out help on another CLG grant.
 - **Action:** David will check in with Marge Sweeney and see if there's something they expect us to do.
- East Calais Dam
 - Looking at the situation in East Calais: the dam appears to be so damaged that it will be removed. It appears that they will try to return the current pond to its wetland state.

- They have to go through a Section 106 review with the Division for Historic Preservation. They will probably retain a portion of the dam to indicate the history.
- (If we wanted to apply for a historic marker, it would not be a CLG grant – it would be through the Historic Marker Program.)

Adamant

- (Aside by Larry: We need to pay more attention to the discussions about the Planning Commission, who are embarking on their new town plan at the moment.)
- Over half of Adamant is the music school at the moment. If anything happened to the music school, that whole town center would be up for grabs.
- Some people in Adamant have started to talk about the possibility of, for example, elder housing in Adamant center.
- “How do we save this little place we love?”
- David: Two ways we could be involved.
 - Possible CLG plan to hire a consultant for the property or
 - Come up with a rescue plan for the Music School itself by bringing in the Preservation Trust of Vermont.
- We decided in the course of the conversation that the CHPC would not pursue a 2023 CLG grant for this purpose, given the brief time remaining before the grant deadline and the early, exploratory nature of the inquiries at this point.
- **Action:** David will put Larry in touch with Ben Doyle at the Preservation Trust.

Adjourned, 8:23 pm.