

Calais Historical Preservation Commission

May 15th, 2024 - Calais Town Hall

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

The meeting was called to order by Tobin Anderson at 7:03pm

1) Approval of minutes of April 2024 meeting. No changes to April minutes, Motion by David Schutz, seconded by Susannah Blachly. Passed unanimously. No changes to March minutes. Motion by Larry Bush, seconded by Susannah Blachly. Passed Unanimously.

2) Curtis Pond Update: David S. says it appears from updates from Jamie Moorby, that funding has been received and the project could be completed by the end of the season. There is still the availability of federal funds secured by Sen. Sanders which could be used to pay off loans in the future. There may still need to be some funds raised this year. Tobin asked David about CLG grants and can we still help with getting any grant funding. Some funds may be off the table because the project may be completed. But, there may be funds for Interpretive Panels to be located behind the store or the swim area or the dam itself, which could be secured through CLG grants. There will need to be discussion about what these Panels could look like and what they would include, and the HPC should work with the Curtis Pond Dam Association about the future desire for this type of project. There was a discussion about “Historic State Markers” as opposed to a more art/historical installation, and we are looking more at a local art/historical installation, not a state historic marker. The HPC would come up with a budget, costs, and what the project would look like. CLG grants would be due in early December according to David S. Ryan E. mentioned VTrans has a great signage/installation process and we may want to check with them to see what they use. David S. mentioned someone in the state who does this as well for the state who we could ask about this process in the future. Tobin mentioned a process where the HPC starts to talk with the Curtis Pond Dam Association (Damnation) so we have a plan around September 2024.

3) Meeting with the Selectboard Update: Tobin said it was a very straightforward meeting. They presented a brief history of the Commission, Tobin was alone and scared as the section of the meeting started about 15 minutes early, but David S. showed up, just as the calvary, to help Tobin continue to present. They presented about the Walking Tour and its progress and made the suggestion that SB bring to the HPC any projects they think we need to focus on. It was a good exchange of ideas and building a solid relationship with the SB. David S. mentioned that it was great to have Kari as Town Administrator who will be able to help with grants and watching progress of different projects and serving as a conduit for the HPC and SB.

4) Adamant Community Initiative: Susannah was at the last meeting. It was a very well attended meeting, there were many groups in attendance who could be potential avenues for resources and funds. There was a big push to create committees who could help steer this revival process and there seems to be great interest from those in attendance. There appears to be a great new energy from the new Board of the Adamant School of Music. Tobin asked about the idea of building a community trust and Susannah said there is a committee to look into this idea and there seems to be support for a community Trust. Ryan E. was at the meeting and had some notes as well. The music school owns $\frac{2}{3}$ of Adamant, there was discussion about future selling of land, but that is not something being actively discussed. There were discussions about some of the different issues the school and the village (Adamant) are facing, but there was a lot of support for trying to find solutions. Enrollment at the Music School is up.

5) Calais Historic Walking Tour: Tobin started the discussion and handed it off to Susannah for updates. Susannah contacted all potential readers and all of them said “yes” and are waiting to review. Susannah has worked with Ryan E. for architectural definitions and has asked John McCollough to do drawings for the different architecture terms. There was discussion about how to best use the glossary of terms and make it reader-friendly. Susannah is going to ask John M. if he has any ideas. Tobin wondered about the possibility of using actual Calais buildings they would see as examples in the glossary instead of “idealized” visuals, but that may not be possible. Susannah, Ryan E. and John M. are going to talk more to come up with a plan for how to move forward with this glossary project and how best to make the visuals and the terms work together. Tobin will be traveling next week, but will be able to look at his sections and have them ready to be read by reviewers. Tobin talked about a discussion he had with a State of Vermont Archeological historian who said that there may be no Abenaki history in the area and that petroglyphs just over in Woodbury may be 19th century white settler markings, not Abenaki, very likely the Ainsworth family. David S. mentioned that lack of evidence of Abenaki does not mean they were not here, so we have to be careful and broad with the language we use when discussing this in the Tour. Tobin will be careful in the way he words this section to make sure we are being historically accurate, yet still referencing the inclusion and continuing presence. Tobin is going to talk with Erica Heilman to discuss ensuring that our outside vendors for technology are set up for recording/editing and will be paid. Tobin mentioned having a summer read through as a group (HPC) so we can have an experiential opportunity to know what it sounds like, how long it takes, etc. The HPC will set up a time in the summer to have a read through. Jarrod will be sending the Town’s webmaster information to Tobin so he can have a conversation about web services.

6) 2025 CLG Grant Possibilities: Discussion about possibly 2025 CLG grants. Curtis Pond Dam Interpretive Panels, possible art installation/informational project at the East Calais/Moscow Woods dam, maybe even a Calais Dam historic project for both. Jarrod will send the draft Town Plan section of Historic Resources for comment and for possible ideas of projects. Robinson Sawmill, Old West Church, the Kent as possible projects - the idea of pulling the three organizations together.

Notes: Laura Trieschmann - State Historic Preservation Officer

Adjourned by unanimous acclamation at 8:06 pm