

Calais Historic Preservation Commission September 15, 2021

PRESENT: David Schutz, Larry Bush, Susannah Blachly, Scott Bassage, Dirk Van Susteren, Tobin Anderson

1. Previous Minutes approved. Bassage, Blachly

2. Store Renovation

The Community Trust has just received a Vermont Community Development Block Grant of \$383,000.

The final wrap up report was submitted on time, but VDHP needs some further reports. Scott is working on it.

4. Adamant Application

Larry has done his part of the final report for the granting body. Scott will do the remainder.

Brian Knight is still in the final stages of negotiation with Devin about the content.

The nomination document should be presented at the Advisory Council's October meeting.

Find the Advisory Council's website(Agenda, minutes, board members, etc) by pasting this into your browser:

<https://accd.vermont.gov/historic-preservation/partners/advisory-council>

Scroll down the ACHP homepage to find the October meeting.

The meeting is Thursday, October 21, 2021, Calvin Coolidge Conference Room, 1 National Life Drive, Davis Building, 6th Floor, Montpelier, VT AND GoTo Virtual Meeting. Attend by either clicking the link toward the bottom of the ACHP homepage, or by phone 1-571-317-3112, access code 615-321-581.

David and Larry will attend. Anyone else who can attend should do so. If you would like more information, be in touch with Larry or Scott.

From minutes of 8/11/21, but still valid:

The backlog of the National Register is huge ... So it might go off to DC in October, but it will be a while before we hear from DC.

We should make sure that the most ample version of the report is on the town website – the version which includes as much as possible of the additional social and economic history. The version that's posted on the town website is one of the earlier website is 115 pages – the revised version about to be submitted to the National Register is 74 pages. A lot shorter. (We actually want the public to be able to access all the extra information.)

The 115 page version on the website is *Adamant_NR_Form_04.22.docx -115 pages* CHP Scott has a shorter version; *adamant nr_8.6.21 bkr - 73 pages*. Let him know if you would like a copy.

5. Maple Corner Application

We have one response to the RFP, from Brian Knight.

The RFP went to several qualified consultants. The list of consultants who have met the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines, updated September 14, 2021, contains 40 names, both in and out of Vermont.

(see

https://accd.vermont.gov/sites/accdnew/files/documents/HP/Architectural%20History_History_Architecture%202021.pdf)

After some discussion Tobin moved to send the RFP to the whole list. Larry seconded the motion. We approved the motion unanimously.

David and Dirk will organize the effort. Scott and others volunteered to help. The new deadline for responding to the RFP is October 1. CHPC will meet on October 13th to review responses.

After we have chosen a consultant we hope (Covid *volente*) to hold a community kick off meeting and form a group of Maple Corner residents to help the consultant. The community group would help the consultant in ways including gathering local stories and photographs.

Tobin and David have volunteered to work on rewrites and negotiating with VDHP on the final document.

We agreed that we want the consultant to cast a broad net rather than writing only about architecture. We want the social and economic history of the village.

The consultant will need to propose boundaries for the district.

The deadline for the Maple Corner project wrap up is August 1, 2022.

6. Miscellaneous.

A. We discussed, but did not completely resolve issues explained in the minutes from the August 11 meeting

Discussion of how project- and grant-driven we have been. Mary Alice points out that there are other topics we could turn to, if we met even in those months when there's no new action to be taken with our CLG grants. Are there ways to be more public-facing

with our work? Have we done everything we can to ensure that our decision-making processes are transparent?

In particular, questions about when we should launch into our Calais history tour – to be used both by visitors to the town and for local history units at the Calais schools.

There was a presentation on the grant for Norwich got for their local history tour. We should watch that presentation and start to discuss this, which will almost certainly be our next initiative – the summation of our work with the National Register histories and the CLG grants.

B. Larry reminded us that we should be following the Vermont Open Meeting Law as interpreted by the Calais Selectboard. This means warning meetings, with the agenda, at least three days ahead of time and posting minutes within three days after the meeting. Warnings, agenda and minutes are posted on the town website. Warnings are posted at the town office and two other locations.

Larry volunteered to work with Town Office Staff to get old minutes on the CHPC section of the website. Larry will work with Scott on retrieving old minutes.

Next meeting: October 13th, 2021.