

# Calais Historical Preservation Commission

October 9, 2024 - Calais Town Hall

**Attendees:** David Schutz; Tobin Anderson; Jarrod Weiss; Ryan Edwards; Larry Bush; Susannah Blachly (by phone)

The meeting was called to order by Tobin Anderson at 7:04pm

1) Changes to agenda, Tobin requested to move items #3 and #4. Approved by consensus. Added item #5 - Grant Projects for 2025.

2) Approval of minutes of September 11, 2024 meeting. Larry B. moved, Ryan E. seconded. No changes. Unanimously approved.

3) Tobin discussed the Maple Corner Historic District application and his conversation with Laura Trieschmann at the Vermont office of State Historic Preservation. There is some consternation about the process and how it has played out recently, as well as concerns with the way the process has been publicly handled. Laura T. from State Historic Preservation suggested to Tobin that the HPC wait for an edit to the current application and then decide how to proceed. At this moment we are in a holding pattern until we get word from the State Historic Preservation office.

4) Calais Town History Tour. There was a discussion about the final product, the inclusion of architectural history, the pointing out of specific homes, and the length of the tour. David S. asked which houses are being “called out” in the architecture sections. Susannah mentioned that as written it does mention specific homes and teaches about specific architectural details and then points them out on homes, but isn’t necessarily pointing out homes specifically, rather mentioning that some buildings that are homes used to be other buildings in town. David S. talked about how he supports pointing out the history of the town, because this is meant as historic preservation, not just history. David mentioned the possibility of making the architecture sections “options” for part of the tour - those doing the tour could choose to do the architecture section or move to the next main section. Tobin mentioned that he believes the goal was to have people be able to do this whole tour, but worries that at its current length that may keep people from doing. David talked about how the Statehouse audio tour is about 2.5 hours long and people choose which parts to listen to on their tour. Susannah discussed that the East Calais architecture section could be a stand alone section, but not the other sections. Tobin talked about how these changes could affect the audio editing work done by Erica Heilmann and how we need to move forward with those changes. David clarified with Susannah that East Calais architecture should be a standalone section, but that Kent’s Corner and North Calais section need to stay with both history/architecture and Susannah concurred that was her belief. Ryan E. talked about his experiences and feelings about history tours vs. architectural tours. Larry B. mentioned that he believes the homeowners need to know that their home is on the tour and there could be people coming around their property. David offered to help Susannah to better understand what

buildings are on the tour and how we can proceed. A link to the updated document will be sent to all members for review so we can make a decision about how to deal with homes on the tour. A quick discussion about how to launch this in the future. Tobin mentioned that Stacey Peters will be our web designer and needs to connect with Kate Burham about the Kent's Corner website and our using their website as a conduit for the tour. Tobin informed the HPC that all invoices but one have been sent and the recordings are done.

5) 2025 CLG grant. Tobin talked about some of the past discussions for possible HPC grants including the Bliss Cemetery, the Curtis Pond Dam. Other projects include creating a kid version of the Calais Town History Tour, Old West Church/Robinson Sawmill, Adamant Music School. The HPC will continue talk about future projects.

Tobin motioned to adjourned, Jarrod seconded. Motion approved unanimously. Meeting ended at 8:21.