

Historic Resources Committee Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday, March 10, 2015 - Washington Street Conference Room

Members Present: Chair Meg Barclay, Judy McGuirk, Beedy Parker, Pat Skaling

Alternates Present: Kris Mikkelson

Select Board Liaison: Don White

Volunteers: Rosalee Glass, Susan Snead, Heather Moran

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Meg Barclay

Secretary's Report/Review of Minutes:

Minutes of February 10, 2015, were approved as written.

Chair's Report: Meg heard from Pat Finnigan about our queries concerning the unspent monies budgeted for 2014 for the HRC. Currently HRC has \$3000 in its budget which has not been spent, and this money can be carried forward to the following year if we request it. Pat indicated that she had also included \$1000. in the proposed budget for the coming year. It was agreed that we would discuss this further later in this meeting. (See Historic District Expansion below).

Select Board Liaison's Report:

Don White reported that two zoning article changes concerning the Business Opportunity Zone will be coming up this week at the Select Board meeting. Also, it's election time again for Town committees. There are openings on the Personnel Committee and the School Board. Application papers need to be returned by April 23 to the Town Office. Two seats on the Select Board are up for election: Leonard Lookner and John French. Don was not certain if both were planning to run again or not. The Budget Committee is currently conducting hearings for next year's budget.

HRC GOALS/OLD BUSINESS

Stewardship

Archives: no new activity

Village Green: The updated Village Green policy as proposed by HRC was accepted by the Select Board with the Select Board remaining as the administrative body. HRC questioned if the entire package which included the revisions of the application form and the Letter of Agreement was approved. Don thought that the entire package of revisions had been accepted, but he will check and confirm.

Opera House: no report. Don mentioned that renovations are not likely to happen soon.

Education/Recognition

Expanding Historic Districts Downtown- Susan Snead and Elinor Klivans met to review how the last survey was done. Susan raised several questions: Do we need Select Board approval to proceed? Does the RFP go out from the Town Office? Does the HRC write the RFP and the Town Office sends it out? Don suggested these questions should be asked of Janice Esancy in the Town Office. We know if the costs exceed \$2000, we need to go out for bid.

Since previous estimates for the research ranged from \$1000 to \$4700, Susan would like to ask for more money in our 2015 budget request since the \$3000 carried over from last year and the \$1000 requested for this year may not cover the expense. Meg will contact Pat Finnigan to increase our request for next year from \$1000 to \$1500, which would give us \$4500 total for the project.

Policy

Historic Preservation Ordinance: Deb Dodge has contacted Meg to inform the HRC that the Downtown Network Board is considering restructuring according to Main Street Town specifications and exploring the eventual possibility of becoming a Main Street Town. Deb outlined the four groups needed and the composition of each of the four teams. The four teams would be Organization, Promotion, Design, and Economic Restructuring.

Meg responded to the specific team structure/composition suggested in the materials prepared by the DNB by recommending two more members be added to the Design Team: 1) tree warden, 2)public works.

It should be noted that a historic ordinance is not a prerequisite to become a Main Street Town, but an ordinance may be an outcome of the process. The point of becoming a Main Street Town is to engage different people in different capacities to provide healthy debate for changes for Camden in order to promote improved business and community aesthetics and to have building owners in downtown realize their potential. These Main Street discussions might be a great platform for getting a historic ordinance off the ground rather than just launching it from the Historic Resources Committee.

Other Discussion of Interest: A group has formed to raise funds to restore the the tower atop Mt. Battie. In coordination with the town of Camden, the group calling itself "Friends of Mt. Battie Tower" plans to restore the tower which has deteriorated over the years. The non-profit group, chaired by Randy Stearns, hopes to raise \$100,000. The landmark tower is on state park property and therefore not one of the historic landmarks that is directly managed by the town.

FYI: A website for homeowner's wanting to research a home's history: cr.nps.gov/nr/publications (Look for the "Researching a Historic Property" bulletin.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

There will be NO MEETING IN APRIL. Next meeting will be Tuesday, May 11, 4:00 p.m. at Washington St. Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Skaling