

**Camden Historic Resources Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 11, 2012**

Members Present: Acting Chair – Elinor Klivans; Meg Barclay; Judy McGuirk

Alternates Present: Susan Snead

Select Board Liaison: Don White

Camden Library Parks Director: Dave Jackson

Volunteers: Rosalee Glass

The meeting was called to order at 4:05p.m. by Elinor Klivans.

- Secretary's Report: The minutes of the July 10, 2012 meeting were approved as written.
- Chair's Report: NONE
- Town Manager's Report: NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Village Green: The workday was postponed; a new workday is planned for the near future.

Archives: The CHRC "Chair's File Box" has been carefully organized by Kit Parker and a disk has been made. Ann Sziklas is in possession of the box. A final location for the box has not been determined.

Arbor Park and Amphitheatre: Dave Jackson reported on the submission of the Camden Amphitheatre and Public Library to the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places for National Historic Landmark Status. It is on the national selection committee's agenda Nov. 8, 2012. Dave Jackson and Camden Public Library Director Nikki Maounis will attend the selection committee meeting. The public and public entities and officials may submit letters of recommendation. Dave will provide the CHRC with the correct address for letters of support.

Meg moved and Susan Snead seconded the motion, "that the CHRC write a letter in support of the nomination of the Camden Amphitheatre and Public Library to National Historic Landmark Status." The motion was passed unanimously.

Meg was deputized to compose a draft letter to be submitted to the committee for review (see attached). Other suggestions were made regarding other persons and entities that should be requested to write letters of support.

OLD BUSINESS

Downtown Master Plan Update: See Downtown Network Community

QR Codes: They are up in many locations around town

Walking Tours: Dave Jackson reported on the success of the Camden Historic Walking Tours conducted through the Camden Public Library. Attendance at tours ranged from 2 to 12, with a total of 68 people having taken the tour in 2012. The tours begin with the Amphitheatre and Library, move through the Great Fire District, take in the Public Landing, discuss shipbuilding and river industry, and move uphill to the Village Green and Opera House.

Goals: no discussion. Judy will scan and distribute via email to committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Selectboard Workshop Recap: not discussed

Camden Downtown Network Community Update: Don White reported that the next step would be to become a Main Street Community. He was not certain if a Historic Ordinance of some kind would be required for this next step. There is now a Downtown Network Committee composed of the Executive Board of the Downtown Merchants Association, the Executive Dir. Of the Pen Bay Chamber, members of CDAC, and the Select board liaison to CDAC (Martin Cates). The goal is to have the composition of the committee be 1/3 municipal, 1/3 downtown business, and 1/3 wider community. The current priorities are the Riverwalk and Public Landing. Additional signage and signage tweaking is also in discussion.

Demolition Ordinance: There has been considerable public displeasure regarding the slated demolition of the house at the corner of Chestnut and Frye Streets. Beedy Parker will be asked to search her files for her notes and research from some years past on a Demolition Delay ordinance for future committee discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20p.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, October 9, 2012, 4:00p.m. at the Washington St. Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Meg Barclay

DRAFT LETTER FOR COMMITTEE REVIEW:

Correct addressee and correct address to be supplied by Dave Jackson

Date

Dear XXXX,

We, the members of the Town of Camden Historic Resources Committee, strongly urge you to grant National Historic Landmark status to the Camden Amphitheatre and Public Library, located at 55 Main Street, Camden, Maine.

The Fletcher Steele designed landscape with its library is the crown jewel of our town, and it is widely admired for both its architectural significance and stunning beauty by visitors from across the United States and around the globe.

The Amphitheatre is the very definition of a “cultural landscape.” Not only is its design and history significant, its use and appreciation has been enmeshed in the life of the citizenry from the moment of its construction. Not a day passes without activity, informed and enhanced by Fletcher Steele’s artful shaping of nature, taking place on the grounds: contemplation; play; artistic creation; weddings; theater; musical performances; and fairs, to name a few.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

List of names