

Camden Historic Resources Committee

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 10, 2013, Washington Street Conference Room

Members Present: Chair-Meg Barclay; Beedy Parker, Judy McGuirk

Alternates Present: Kris Mikkelsen, Susan Sneed

Volunteers: Ann Sziklas, Rosalee Glass

Select Board Liaison: Don White

Camden Library Parks Director: Dave Jackson

Director Camden Development Office: Brian Hodges

Camden Garden Club, Village Green Chairman: Lynn Snider

Visitor: DeeDee Conover

The meeting was called to order at 4:03p.m. by Meg Barclay

- **Secretary's Report/Review of Minutes:** Minutes were accepted with the correction of listing Ann Sziklas as a Volunteer not an Alternate.
- **Select Board Liaison's and/or Town Manager's Report:** Don White reported that the Select Board approved the following 4 items to be placed before the Town Meeting for consideration on November 5:
 1. Proposed bond question to borrow up to \$2,000,000 for improvements at the Ragged Mountain Recreation Area (Camden Snow Bowl)
 2. Proposed amendments to the Harbor & Waterways Ordinance
 3. Proposed amendment to the Camden Zoning Ordinance, Article VIII, Section 13 Business River District.
 4. Proposed amendment to the Camden Zoning Ordinance, Article X, Performance Standards, Section 11: Accessory Storage Containers

The purchase of real property located at 14 and 16 John Street (lots 25 and 26 on Tax Map 117 was tabled for now.

HRC GOALS/OLD BUSINESS

Stewardship

Archives: no report

Village Green: Lynn Snider gave a comprehensive report regarding work accomplished at the Green and work that still needs to be done (see attachment). Meg suggested Lynn send a letter to Town Manager Patricia Finnigan regarding items 1, 2, 5 and 11 since they are the responsibility of the town. Meg also suggested that the Garden Club refer to the Camden Village Green Preservation and Management Plan for guidance regarding trees on the Green and changing plant material.

Harbor Park and Amphitheater: Dave Jackson reported that the 5 temporary "No Smoking" signs posted in the Library area will be replaced by permanent signs provided by the town. (DeeDee Conover will ask the Town for a "No Smoking" sign for Curtis Island.)

Dave reported that the understory Hemlocks planted along the back fence have been topped by an unknown source. Police were notified. A temporary screen has been placed on the fence as a substitute.

Walking Tours: Dave reported on the success of the Camden Historic Walking Tours conducted through the Camden Public Library. 76 people took the tour in 2013. Amy Rollins will help Dave give the tours next year.

Opera House: no report

Annual Letter to Stewards of Town Historic Properties: no action taken

Yacht Club; Opera House Manager; Parks & Rec. re Village Green, Amphitheatre, and Harbor Park; Conover's re Curtis Island Light; Dave Jackson re Library & Grounds; Montessori School re Elm Street School; Chestnut Street Baptist Church re Town Clock; Public Works re historic districts; Town Manager re all resources.

Education/Recognition

Curtis Light House Museum: DeeDee Conover reported that photos are now displayed in the shadow boxes. The display will remain in place over the winter. She is considering Plexiglas covers for the shadow boxes.

Display of Historic Materials at the Town Office: no report

Megunticook River Walk History Project: Meg is researching

Camden Hills State Park, including WWI Memorial and CCC works: Meg is researching

Mountain View Cemetery: Meg is researching

Current & Former Church Buildings outside historic districts: Meg is researching

Policy

Comprehensive Plan:

Chapter 14 Historic Resources: (8/13/13 revisions sent to and were reviewed by the PB, no action)

Chapter 13 Recreation & Open Space: final revisions were made, will be sent to PB

Chapter 10 Land Use Patterns: no action required by HRC

Downtown Master Plan: no report

Other Camden Committees' Policy HRC Overlap Review: no reports

Board of Assessment Review; Budget Committee; Budget Nominating Committee; Camden Conservation Commission; Camden Downtown Network Board; Camden Housing Committee; Camden Rockport Pathways Committee; CEDAC (Camden Economic Development Advisory Committee); Cemetery Association; Harbor Committee; Megunticook Dams Committee; Opera House Committee; Parks & Rec. Committee; Personnel Board; Planning Board; Zoning Board of Appeals

Select Board Interface: February progress report and ongoing recommendations: no report

NEW BUSINESS: Brian Hodges is applying for a Belvedere Historic Preservation Grant to repair the granite steps and wrought iron rail on the Main Street entrance to the Library. He requested a letter of support from the HRC.

Susan moved and Judy seconded the motion, "proposing that Meg draft a letter, on behalf of the HRC, supporting the grant application". The motion was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:46p.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, October 8, 2013, 4:00p.m. at the Washington St. Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy McGuirk

Village Green

September 10, 2013

Recommendations for the Maintenance of the Village Green from the Camden Garden Club for Fall/Spring, 2013-14.

1. The benches need to be painted.
2. The sidewalk pavers are quite irregular and represent a liability to the Town. A few need immediate work which would take two men less than two hours.
3. Today 5 women and one man cleaned the unsightly grass between the cracks in the pavers. This exposed edges which could cause accidents. We tried to sweep the dirt back into the cracks after the weeds and grass were removed to reduce tripping hazards. Along the edges of the walk the grass has grown over the pavers 4 or 5 inches making the sidewalk more narrow. Part of this was removed during the time we had available today.
4. The Allen Agency alley was full of tall weeds which 4 Garden Club members removed. Two bushes which were in danger of the snow plows were moved back from the alley. We are considering what we can plant in front of the bushes that would die down in winter and come back in Spring and would keep down the weeds but would be unaffected by the plows. Hosta? May be too sunny. Need suggestions.
5. The brush pile behind the Monument needs to be removed. **It** is getting quite tall.
6. The daylilies are almost maintenance free but are quite messy, especially in the Fall. Some consideration is being given to permission to replace them with something else. But what?
7. The blue spruce tree has mostly dead branches on its eastern side and should be removed entirely. It's not pretty and does not conform to the original plan for the Green by Olmstead.
8. A stump of a dead bush in the daylily bed needs to be removed.
9. All the shrubs in front of the junipers are getting too tall and leggy. Pruning is planned after spring bloom next year.
10. The junipers have a disease. They may eventually die and have to be replaced by something. Some Garden Club members want them removed no action is planned for now.

Respectfully submitted, Lynn Snider, Chairman of

Village Green for the Camden Garden Club

Lynn Snider