

**Historic Resources Committee
Minutes of May 12, 2015**

Members Present: Chair Meg Barclay, Elinor Klivans, Judy McGuirk, Pat Skaling

Alternates Present: Susan Neves

Select Board Liaison: Don White

Volunteers: Rosalee Glass, Susan Snead

The meeting was called to order by Meg Barclay at 4:05pm

Secretary's Report/Review of Minutes:

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

Chair's Report:

Nothing outside of the agenda to report

Select Board Liaison's Report:

Don White reported that the town ballot vote is coming up on Tuesday, June 9 and Town Meeting is Wednesday, June 10, 7:00p.m. There are 5 people running for 2 Select Board seats. There are two zoning questions on the ballot: 1) shall the 500' rule be eliminated in transitional zones that abut the commercial district and 2) should the town create a new zoning overlay of "business opportunity zone." Anne Keefe has offered to sell her property, which would be in one of these opportunity zones opposite Hannaford, to the town. The town attorney is looking at clarifying the language defining residential and commercial uses. There will not be a moratorium on use of the Knox Mill. Business is Blooming will be this weekend and the centennial celebration of the Camden Post office will take place Saturday, May 16 on the Village Green. The stairway on the north side of the Post Office connecting Chestnut and Bayview Streets has been removed. A new stair will be built on the south side of the Post Office. The Post Office door frame has been repaired and repainted. Sewer will finally be properly connected to Mountain Arrow on High Street.

HRC GOALS/OLD BUSINESS

Stewardship

Archives: no new activity

Village Green:

PAVERS - Judy McGurik reported that the Village Green path pavers have been lifted and reset by Eaton Landscaping. The bid for the project was \$15,000, much less than anticipated, so the project was able to be scheduled this spring. The project happened so quickly that the path between Elm Street and the flag pole was not straightened, as proposed in the Village Green Master Plan, because that would have necessitated relocating a "tombstone" electrical outlet.

BENCHES - The Garden Club is concerned with the deteriorated conditions of the Village Green benches, which have rotten slats and peeling paint. There is concern about the brightness of the green color seen on one of the slats that has been replaced. There was discussion on what the best material for slat replacement would be. The original slats were made of oak, as was common at the time. The original paint color is not known. The slats are now cedar, which holds up better than oak. It appears that some parks are now moving to clear finished cedar because it is easier to maintain than paint, but a move in this direction would necessitate replacing all the wood at once. The pros and cons of synthetic materials were discussed. No conclusion on materials was reached; however, Meg was deputized to write a letter to Town Manager Pat Finnigan to express the concerns.

Harbor Park and Ampitheatre: No report from Dave Jackson. There was a clean-up day last weekend. Very few people attended. An email was sent out, but there did not appear to be a press release.

Opera House: Meg Barclay reported that she received a call from the Opera House regarding the possibility of a historic-designation plaque being mounted on the Opera House. She instructed the Opera House to first find out from Code Officer Steve Wilson if zoning allowed such a plaque and, if so, what size and placement restrictions there might be. If it was allowed, then the Opera House would need to present a proposal showing the size, design, material, color and location of the plaque to the HRC for approval.

Education/Recognition

Expanding Historic Districts Downtown: Susan Snead, Elinor Klivans, and Meg Barclay met with Christi Mitchell, Architectural Historian, of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission to discuss the creation of an RFP for a Historical Consultant to evaluate the eligibility of four properties on Bayview Street and the Corner of Bayview and Main Street for Inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Based on discussions with Christi, Susan prepared and RFP for Phase 1 that was sent on May 1 to seven names taken from a list prepared by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. Responses are due on May 18th. The budget for Phase 1 is \$1,500. After responses are reviewed, the next step will be the interview of candidates.

Phase 2 will be further research on and preparation of paperwork for all the buildings deemed eligible as a either a result of Phase 1 or previously deemed eligible by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. The goal is to include these buildings in an expanded Chestnut Street Historic District. Those previously deemed eligible are: The curved-front brick building on the corner of Bayview Street (Unique One for many years), the building housing Leslie Curtis Design, the building housing Theo B. Camisole, and the building housing Sugar Tools and the Goose River Exchange (formerly the ABCdef Books building). The former Peter Ott's Tavern/Bayview Cinema building was previously OKed, but the recent changes to the façade will make it ineligible. Phase 2 will include a rewriting of the Chestnut Street Historic District's description to include commercial activity.

Christi Mitchell has informed us that the former movie house that is now the Camden Merchant's Showcase is ineligible for listing as it currently exists. The upper dormers would have to be removed to make listing possible.

Budget

Town Manager Pat Finnigan has assured Meg that the \$3,000 in the HRC's 2014-2015 budget will be carried over into the 2015-2016 budget year. In addition, \$1,000 for the HRC has been included in the Town Managers budget request and been approved by the Budget Committee. The entire budget still needs to be approved at Town Meeting. It is likely that the combined cost of Phase 1 (\$1,500) plus Phase 2 will exceed \$4,000. Pat Finnigan would like to be kept apprised of possible cost overruns to see if the additional money can be covered by the town.

NEW BUSINESS

Member Terms

Four terms are up for renewal in June of 2015. Regular members Beedy Parker and Judy McGuirk and alternates Kris Mikkelsen and Susan Neves. Those wishing to renew their terms must stop by the Town Office and fill out the paperwork. Judy and Susan Neves have agreed to renew. Beedy and Kris were not present. Meg will email them and ask if they are willing to renew.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Next meeting will be Tuesday, June 9, 4:00 p.m. at Washington St. Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Meg Barclay