

Camden Historic Resources Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 13, 2014, Washington Street Conference Room

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

Alternates Present: Susan Sneed, Susan Neves

Volunteers: Rosalee Glass

Select Board Liaison: Don White

Guests: Deedee Conover, Elizabeth Moran

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Meg Barclay

Secretary's Report/Review of Minutes: Minutes of April 8, 2014 accepted with no corrections.

Select Board Liaison's Report: Don White reported:

1. The Downtown Network Board will work on signage for the Knox Mill parking lot that will reduce confusion over where to exit.
2. The Select Board will address "bump-outs" for people to sit down at three locations – near Camden National Bank, the Village Green and Lily Lupine & Fern.
3. Post Office – remove current wooden stairs and replace with steps on other side of building.
4. Grant money is at work on Library stairs and rail on Main Street entrance.

HRC GOALS/OLD BUSINESS

Stewardship

Archives: no report

Village Green: Elizabeth Moran, incoming Camden Garden Club President, reported that the Club is celebrating their Centennial anniversary in March of 2015. As part of this event the Garden Club would like to present the Town with a special gift next year. Elizabeth asked the HRC for permission to:

1. Remove and possibility replace the diseased junipers, in the border bed near the Baptist Church, with an evergreen species resistant to the cedar apple rust currently damaging the Junipers. Some junipers might not need to be replaced since the other shrubs have grown so large.
2. Remove the blue spruce "Christmas Tree".
3. Straighten the crooked granite paver path from the flag pole to the Elm Street sidewalk to a gentler curve. This is a change recommended in the Camden Village Green Preservation and Management Plan of May 5, 1998.
4. Repair the broken chain between two granite posts near the Allen Agency.

The committee voted to approve, as being consistent with the Village Green Master Plan, all items except the change-out of the junipers (which still needs further exploration).

Elizabeth will talk to Pat Finnigan about the project, especially the path and missing chain, as well as talk to Tree Warden Bart Wood about removal of the spruce.

Harbor Park and Amphitheatre: Dave Jackson's report was submitted with today's agenda.

Opera House: no report

Education/Recognition

Curtis Light Exhibit: Deedee Conover reported that the Island was opened last Sunday. The tower will be opened only when DeeDee is present. The Exhibit, as it will be called, will be ready at the end of June. Ed Sziklas donated an 1864 map of Rockport and Camden Harbor that will be displayed. No press will be invited to the opening of the Exhibit as the Island is fragile and excessive traffic is not encouraged. Don White was asked to arrange a Select Board excursion to view the new Exhibit.

Display of Historic Materials at the Town Office – no news

Megunticook River Walk History Project: Pathways Committee Chair Jeff Scott said there is no budget for signage. Variety of signs were discussed – Beach Hill Land Trust signs, nature or historic photos on signs, etc.

Steve Wilson stopped by to tell us that a minor change to the sign ordinance would be needed. There is time to put the change on the November ballot.

The committee voted to have Meg write a letter to the Planning Board about the change needed in the sign ordinance.

Other Historic Properties:

Pat Skaling reported on her research about seeking designation by the National Park Service as a Wild and Scenic Partnership River for Megunticook River. She learned that even if a river has dams, parts of the river can seek designation as Wild and Scenic. Pat suggested not proceeding at this time as the process is very involved.

HRC currently has \$5,000 in our budget. There was a discussion about hiring Ann Morris and ask her to start as soon as possible researching historic

properties. An entity within the town only need to solicit bids for a project if the cost is expected to be over \$3,000. Expect Ann's fee to be around \$1,000.

Committee voted to engage Ann Morris to begin the research.

New Member Orientation: Susan Neves and Pat Skaling will continue to review the New Member Orientation packet and suggest updates.

Policy

Historic Preservation Ordinance: Meg met with the Downtown Network Board to discuss historic districts and fostering the economic development potential of Camden's historic resources. It was agreed that there is a need to address buildings named in the Downtown Master Plan. It was suggested to plan a fall meeting/event with major stakeholders: merchants, building owners, someone from the Maine State Historic Preservation Commission State (for facts on taxes, pros and cons). This meeting should include area community members who have used the tax credit to improve their property. Chamber of Commerce will be involved. Meg will contact Christi Mitchell at the Maine State Preservation Commission to organize that office's involvement.

Other Camden Committees Policy/HRC Overlap Review: Planning Board – Article 13 is on the backburner, Article 1 needs to be addressed first.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m..

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Tuesday, June 10th, 4:00 p.m. at Washington St. Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy McGuirk