

Historic Sites Committee
(a work committee of the Hyde Park Planning Commission)

MINUTES

Thursday, March 26, 2015 – 4:30 PM
344 Route 15 West, Municipal Offices

Present: Kevin Fitzgerald, Jim Heath, Monica Heath, and Ron Rodjenski
Absent: Duncan Tingle
Guests: Eric Gilbertson and Lisa Ryan from The Preservation Trust of Vermont

1. Welcome
2. Preservation Trust of Vermont

Lisa and Eric introduced themselves to the committee and provided a brief overview of their roles with PTV – Eric is the barn preservation specialist and Lisa is field service representative. The guests were informed of the planning commission's current work on updating the town zoning bylaw which will include historic preservation through form-based codes. Eric advised that the 1992 Historic Sites Inventory for Hyde Park should be updated and working with UVM students can help reduce the cost. Lisa advised that there are a number of grants available to assist in updating the survey, recommending that public outreach is important ahead of the work. Many people think having an historic district would prohibit them from changing windows or demolishing their inventoried buildings. Lisa and Eric both stated that inventorying does not come with any restrictions and a landowner could demolish their buildings at any time. The restrictions are put in place by either local zoning regulations or when grant funds are accepted to improve or restore a structure.

Eric recommended contacting Bob McCullough (Author of the 2005 book "Crossings: A History of Vermont Bridges) and Lisa will provide additional contact information to Kevin to explore resources for updating the 1992 inventory. Eric explained that property owners could benefit from the town becoming a Certified Local Government or CLG. CLG's operate with an appointed historic preservation commission of residents and under the provisions of a local ordinance. Eric recommended that town bylaws should consider adopting the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Preservation Briefs as a guide for reconstruction and preservation of historic structures. Briefs can be reviewed at <http://www.nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve/briefs.htm>. Vermont Community Development Block Grants, the Vermont Economic Development Authority and National Trust are grant resources to pursue.

3. Joneslan Farm Barns

Eric remembered evaluating the historic barns on Jones Road and advised that instead of trying to preserve the barns all at once, the project could pursue funding every other year. However, even though funding is limited and competitive, he felt the ranking would be high for the structures.

4. Covered Bridge – Garfield Road

Ron asked about available funding for reconstructing the covered bridge at Green River. Eric advised that while there are some historic covered bridges in storage, they would not support the weight of today's municipal snow plows. Jim McCullough is the best contact for opportunities to build wooden bridges. The existing culvert is in need of repair at this location, which is also the entrance into Green River State Park.

5. To Do's – Ron will connect Eric with Brian Jones on the barn project. Kevin will make some connections at UVM for a town-wide historic sites inventory update. Ron will prepare an intern "scope of work" to present to UVM for comment and possible interest. Jim will prepare a list of funding agencies he is aware of, including those from his work on the Laraway project in Johnson.

6. Adjourn – 5:30 PM

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, April 7, 2015 at 5:00 PM