



Historic Sites Committee

(a work committee of the Hyde Park Town Planning Commission)

MINUTES

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

Present: Jim Heath, Kevin Fitzgerald, Monica Heath, Duncan Tingle
Absent: None
Guests: Greg Paus, Devin Colman, Bob Malbon
Staff: Ron Rodjenski

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1. Welcome - Kevin opened the meeting at 4:35 p.m. and introduced Devin Colman, State Architectural Historian from the Vermont Division of Historic Preservation (DHP).
 2. Certified Local Government Designation – Devin provided a handout with information on the CLG designation process and federal and state guidelines required to be met for eligibility to apply for grants under the Vermont Certified Local Government Program. The handouts included the “6 Easy Steps” to designation, a sample Historic Preservation Commission ordinance (needs to be adopted prior to designation), definition of “professional qualifications” to be a qualified commission member, and the “regulations for the Vermont Certified Local Government Program”. Highlights of the discussion:
 - Presently there are 14 designated communities; including Stowe and Waterville.
 - Towns choose to be designated; then can seek federal & state grants not otherwise available.
 - Vermont DHP provides priority technical assistance to CLG’s.
 - The CLG Program is a general historic preservation advocacy effort by the community with assistance from state and federal agencies; not regulatory, however, some grants will come with conditions and some towns choose to adopt regulations for structures.
 - CLG grants support town surveys of historic sites, local history books, website development, community workshops on historic building repairs and renovations.
 - Community is required to establish (by ordinance from legislative body) an “Historic Preservation Commission” consisting of qualified individuals from the town or the area. Some towns allow non-residents if there is at least a majority of the 3 to 9 members being residents.
 - Preservation regulations are not required in order for a community to be designated. Some towns do adopt strict rules to guide how buildings are built or renovated; usually by defining an “Historic District” and adopting a bylaw or incorporating into zoning.
 - Grants are available annually in the fall and most grants are for planning projects (Tier 1) while a few may be for construction (under Tier 2 – bricks & mortar projects, but much more complicated than planning grants due to additional federal requirements).
 - Devin will report back to Kevin whether DHP recommends one Commission for Hyde Park (town and village) or two commissions.
 - Church construction is not eligible for CLG funding, if owned by a religious entity. Otherwise, a church structure, if owned privately, could be eligible for Tier 2 funds.
 - Development Review Boards under a CLG town can ask DHP for recommendations when reviewing historic structures to be impacted by land development proposals.
 - Devin recommended that rather than a CLG grant, the town clock in the County courthouse might be apply directly to the State Historic Preservation Grant program (up to \$20,000 available with required 50% local match). Application are due each fall; grant info from Debra Sayers, DHP at 828-3213.
 3. Minutes – The review of the November 3, 2015 minutes deferred to a future meeting.
 4. Adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 17, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. Gihon Valley Grange Hall