

Durham Historic District Commission
Minutes
December 17, 2020

Topic for discussion: Work Expectations for the DHDC

- Advise and assist individual property owners on available federal and state tax credits for historic preservation and assist them in the application process
- Work with the Maine Historic Preservation Commission to assess the need for a comprehensive community survey of the community's historic and archaeological resources.
- Review the Historic District Ordinances to consider making it a Historic Protection Ordinance that applies to all listed structures in Durham, both those inside and outside of the current Historic Preservation District.
- Improve coordination between the Code Officer, Planning Board, and Historic District Commission in incorporating information provided by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission in the permit review process.

Attending: Candace deCsipkes, Lois Kilby-Chesley, Paula Purdy, Linda Litchfield, Mary Cullen

Absent: Anita, Page Crowley

Guest: Megan Rideout

Megan introduced herself as working with the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC). She had reviewed the work assignment for the DHDC and was prepared to help us move forward.

Bullet 1 (see Slide 1) Do our Commission members have the knowledge to help with the complicated paperwork on federal and state tax credits? It would be better to use a qualified consultant. Resource: Mike D. Johnson at MHPC

Bullet 2 (see Slide 2) An architectural survey is a good idea. Some areas have already been surveyed. In other towns it has worked to use volunteers to gather information. There are grants available through the MHP Fund to cover costs of the survey.

There is capacity to review a map of buildings already surveyed from MDOT Mapviewer. Resource: Michael Goebel-Bain at MHPC. (Michael.w.goebel-bain@maine.gov)

Bullet 3 (see Slide 3) We should start by determining what Durham wants to include for historic district(s) and change the Ordinance to reflect that. Determine which buildings are historic. Make limited choices.

DHDC should check out the Topsham, Augusta and Castine Ordinances. Resource: Andrew Deci in Topsham. Certified Local Government has 10 local Ordinances (<https://www.maine.gov/mhpc/programs/protection-and-community-resources/certified-local-government-program>)

Once the process is completed we may want to review the National Historic list. Then after that combine it with the local Durham list through the public comment process.

National Register: The Town can apply for Preservation Funds for non-profits.

Other resources: Belvedere Fund; Historic Preservation Fund; Maine Preservation /1772 Fund; Favis Family Fund

One way to expand our plan is to use the same wording but replace “Historic District” with “Individual Landmark”. (A group of buildings is an Historic District. One building is an Individual Landmark)

Bullet 4 (see Slide 4 & 5) Maine Preservation has limited involvement in this. (See attachment of coloring book that could be adapted.). Also other tools come from the National Park Service – Historic Preservation Lesson Plans.

Next:

- Talk to Yarmouth about Ordinances.
- Have some intermittent Preservation rules. Let the public know the process.
- Archaeological resources come through the Maine Preservation office
- The Shoreland and Subdivision may need to go through Maine Preservation or Army Corp. It depends on the Zoning Ordinance.

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If questions arise before Jan 21 let Candace know and she will get answers and share with us all.
Next meeting - Jan 21, 2021

