

# Camden Historic Resources Committee

February 8, 2011  
Meeting Minutes

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Members Present: Sonia Spaulding; Elinor Klivans; Kit Parker (chair); Beedy Parker; Mark DeMichele  
Volunteers: Abby Fitzgerald; Ann Sziklas; Dave Jackson; Judy McGuirk  
Visitors: Deb Dodge (Select Board liaison)

Meeting was called to order by Kit at 4:03 PM  
The minutes from the January meeting were approved as submitted.  
Secretary's Report: None

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Village Green:

- Nothing to report.

Archives (Ann):

- A few documents are being processed, but otherwise it is not very busy at this time.

Harbor Park and Amphitheatre (Dave):

- The new skating rink has been very popular and busy.
- Due to warmer temperatures, grooming had been help up but will soon be resumed as temps drop.
- The group known as "Friends of the Amphitheatre Skating Rink" does the grooming by hand-held device.
- National Historic Landmark application update
  - a). Dave will be traveling to Washington D.C. and plans to meet with the landscape historian who is in charge of the our application.
  - b). this person has discovered certain information about our Amphitheatre that was described to Dave as "compelling". Dave is very interested in finding out more.
  - c). the application process is long and described as a "comparative," one meaning that research is done by examining other historic landscape locations in the country.
  - d). Historic Landmark status for a landscape is more difficult to attain than a building, Dave explained.

## OLD BUSINESS

- CEDAC update (Deb)
  - a). CEDAC has held meetings and taken suggestions from the public regarding priority goals and objectives. This information will be available to the public soon.
  - b). "Gateway One" initiatives were also discussed at CEDAC meetings.
  - c). There is a "good prospect" for the old Tannery property, i.e., land for jobs program.
  - d). The position of Community Development Director, approved last year, remains open. There has been a good response and the position was offered and turned down by an applicant.
- Kit plans to attend meetings of The Design Standards work group, a subcommittee of the Planning Board, to fine tune these standards. They will begin with the Great Fire District and Town-owned properties.
- A discussion surrounding cultural tourism touched upon Kit's talk with Marlene Hall of the Camden/Rockport Historical Society. Marlene and another woman are already leading tours of cruise-ship passengers.
- We are examining 2 variations of cultural tourism:
  - a). Tour **Guide version**, a form that Dave currently uses in his brief tours of the Public Landing, downtown, and Amphitheatre.
  - b). **QR Code version**, which would require a display of these codes at particular sites, either on a free-standing post, attached to a building or in a window. These QR codes are appearing more and more and are accessible with "smart phones". Along with the display challenges, costs to launch the QR

code version remain unclear.

- c). Dave and Sonia have offered to write up descriptions of “points of interest” for these or other tour initiatives. Kit will also contact Ann Morris and inquire about her interest in these ideas.
- d). A suggestion that historic tour information might be located in the “Jewel” publication was voiced.
- e). It was also suggested that we engage Dan Bookham, the CRL Chamber director, in a conversation about the CHRC interest in cultural tourism and if it would be appropriate for the CRL Chamber to take a lead role.
- A discussion about the “Camden Waterfront Diorama” took place where the Committee brainstormed about where this piece, which is currently out of public view, might be located in the future.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- It has been determined by Kit that \$1040.00 is available to the CHRC but must be spent before 6/30/11.
- For the last couple of years, our budget has been predominately used for the transfer of archival information into the new database at the History Center.
- Through 6/30/11 30 hours @ \$25 per. hr. will be used, according to Niki Maounis, the Library director. Niki has estimated that an additional 75 hours will be required to complete the data transfer.
- CHRC discussed the upcoming budget meeting and what amount to request from the Budget Committee.
- Mark thought it would be best not to over reach on our request and remain focused on completing the data transfer as a primary goal.
- Kit would like to bring in the QR code system into the budget picture in an effort to keep ahead of the technology that is sure to expand in years to come.
- CHRC agreed on \$1,100.00 as the amount we would request from the Budget Committee.
- Deb suggested the we “split” our request into 3 separate parts:
  1. \$600 for archives/data transfer.
  2. \$300 as a “test” amount to use toward the new QR Code system to be set up in 3 locations.
  3. \$200 for use in creating a “Historic Tourism” narrative.
- A motion to approve was brought to the floor by Elinor and a second came from Abby. CHRC voted to approve the current budget request.
- Kit will present CHRC budget request at the 3/17/11 Camden Budget Committee meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM. The next meeting will be on March 8, 2011 in the Washington St. Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mark DeMichele