

Phippsburg Historic Preservation Commission

September 9, 2024

Present: Merry Chapin, Erika Cramer, Tom Hinkle, Charlotte Moore, Judy Mullins, Richard Spear, Helen Webb and Karen Jorgensen

Minutes: Accepted as sent

Calendars: The 2024 calendars are almost sold out. Photographer Dan Dowd is having difficulty getting in touch with people who have agreed to be in the 2025 calendar.

Catalog of Small Point: Tom brought a catalog of Small Point photos and information by Raymond and Elizabeth Trott. Tom explained about the material in the catalog and then gave the catalog to the Phippsburg Historical Society. Richard and Tom gave some interesting information about the Trotts who were Bath residents and owned property in Phippsburg. The Trott Bath house was sold to BIW and parts of the house were moved to Phippsburg to be incorporated into the Trott summer home. Tom is mentioned in the catalog.

Ordinance: The proposed historic preservation ordinance was discussed. A question was: who can recommend a structure to be landmarked? Other questions were: Who does the monitoring? And can a property be unlandmarked? What do we give to the owner? Other community ordinances will be looked at for possible items that we could consider in the landmarking process. One community is Warren, Rhode Island. Phippsburg is a part of an 8 community cohort of coastal communities and the cohort members will be asked if they do a landmarking process. The Island Institute will also be asked about island communities' similar questions. Our focus could be to work with one landowner at a time. If this is a voluntary process, the owner will have the final say.


Scenic Views: Erika has asked for ideas to include in the scenic view section of the Comprehensive Plan. There are no state or federal byways in Phippsburg. Timber Island in Winnegance might be a possibility for inclusion on a local list.

Popham: As Ranger Sean Vallaincourt is still busy with his duties at Popham State Park, we have not had the opportunity to get inside the former ranger house to see the interior. This house is considered for demolition by the State of Maine, now the owner. There is interest in preservation of this house by a former Percy family member, Pam Matherson. She has written a letter expressing her interest.

Archaeological resources: There is concern about Phippsburg's archaeological resources on the immediate coast being victims of rising sea level. (An update: Merry talked to Leith Smith at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission about this problem. If action of any

kind is taken on this concern, Leith is willing to write a letter of support for any action such as a grant opportunity, inclusion in a document such as the Comprehensive Plan or Climate Plan. As soon as the Cohort of 8 communities, of which Phippsburg is a member, is started (expected date is January 2025) this question will be presented to determine what other communities are doing to document or protect the coastal archaeological remains.)

Respectfully submitted,


Merry Chapin

Commission secretary