

Phippsburg Historic Preservation Commission

November 11, 2024

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

Minutes accepted as sent:

Calendar: a few more people are needed for the calendar

Percy Cottage: Erica and Helen have taken photos of the cottage. This structure belonged to Dr. George Percy of Salem who was from a large, well-known Popham area family. It was commented that there seems to be nothing to recommend this building for historic significance. It appears to be done with little planning. It is a quirky by design type of building with a rabbit warren of little rooms. Helen will visit Bowdoin College to look at Earle Shettleworth's catalog to see if the architect could have been John Calvin Stevens. Sean Vaillancourt is the head Popham State Park ranger and he and his wife met with the Commission group that visited the cottage. The Commission group felt the site is dangerous with a 10 foot cliff. Is there a case for saving this cottage? The Percy family originally stayed in this cottage and at Sea Acres. There was probably a gravity fed water tank. Federal money from the American Rescue Plan is believed to be used for proposed demolition and a rebuild. Sean and his wife would like to keep the building which was their home when they first lived in Popham. The Commission would like Erika Cramer to speak to Maine Preservation about this cottage. The Phippsburg Codes officer believes it will be a year before the state is ready for demolition. During the Commission meeting it was brought up that perhaps State of Maine Historian, Earle Shettleworth, should be asked to write a letter of support for saving the building.

Meeting with Phippsburg Historical Society: Merry and Helen spoke about the meeting between the Commission and Historical Society. Expenses for the Fishermen's House will be considered for one year, then that will be multiplied by 20 years (the usual time for an exhibit) to determine the amount needed to keep this tiny building in repair. Judy spoke about the Stephen King Foundation as a possible funder for the endowment of the Fishermen's House. The King Foundation does give money to museums, not just libraries. A separate account for money donated to the Fishermen's House will be kept by Anna Dienhart of the Phippsburg Historical Society. Merry will check about who pays for the building insurance. The Society does have a long term lease with the Town of Phippsburg for the building. In October there was \$5000 for the Murphy House account (Fishermen's House) and \$5000 in the Commission account. These accounts are held by the Town of Phippsburg. Judy said that the Popham Circle will be making a donation to the Fishermen's

House project. At this time the only expected expense is the purchase of a radiator type heater to keep a minimum temperature in the Fishermen's House.

Culvert Project: Tom spoke about the Culvert Project near the Fletcher house. There is a committee of neighbors working on this project. Tom's boundary runs down the middle of an inlet at the site. You can see an old dam in the inlet. The state plans to work on the culvert on this section of the road. Buell Heminway is in charge of the group of neighbors working on the project. Helen will draft a letter of support of the Fletcher-McDowell house, owned by Tom. Included in the letter will be a request for documentation of the culvert that is now there.

Historic Plaque Project: Helen presented information from various communities that have plague programs. Would someone like to take on this project? Would Phippsburg Historical Society be interested?

Respectfully submitted,

Merry Chapin

Commission secretary