**Wiscasset Historic Preservation Commission**

Minutes, 4/5/16

Present: John Reinhardt, Gordon Kontrath, Wendy Donovan, Jib Fowles, Susan Blagden

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm

2. Consideration of March 3, 2016 minutes

The minutes were approved without changes.

3/4. Discussion of Maine Preservation presentation and Certified Local Government

The commission voted 4-0 in favor of becoming a Certified Local Government, with one abstention. WE would need approval from the Board of Selectmen. Ben will contact the Preservation office and will notify the Selectmen of our intent.

5. Historic District Property Inventory

Susan sent copies of the inventory to the commission prior to this meeting, and there is also an inventory of National Historic Registry properties somewhere in the town office. Susan will update the list to include missing properties. There has been a program set up so that the inventory will update continuously, so we can update our list monthly. It may take 3 or 4 months for updated ownership information to get in to the town office after a sale.

6. Letter to property owners

The letter that we send to property owners should outline who we area as a commission and offer help and resources to property owners. We need to run the letter by the Selectmen, and then send it out to the property owners in the inventory. It was suggested that we include a return envelope with a survey – “what can we (the commission) do for you?” We should also develop a pamphlet for realtors to give to potential buyers.

7. Discussion of the MDOT traffic plan

John stated that he was OK with moving the parking, but not with the sidewalk widening – he felt it was not historic and was “too European”. He would like to see a design that is more American. He was OK with tearing down the Haggett building.

Gordon was interested in finding an alternate parking solution without tearing down any buildings, possibly building along the water’s edge on an elevated platform to reflect the railroad trestle.

Susan felt the plan is a “recipe for disaster”.

Jib pointed out that our job is historic preservation. He was concerned for the Haggett garage building, and wondered if the commission could come to consensus about that issue. There are options for alternate ideas.

The project was on our agenda tonight because the next open house might possibly be at the end of April, and we should have a statement ready.

Ben will contact the DOT and let them know that the commission exists. We can also ask the Maine Historic Preservation Commission for aid.

Ben will look into whether Haggett’s Garage is recognized in the original survey by the federal government, which would make it eligible for 106 review. There are other parties concerned with the fate of the garage.

It was decided that the members of the commission will make individual recommendations to Ben, in order to craft a statement for the MDOT meeting.

The next commission meeting will be Thursday, May 5, 2016 at 5:00 pm.