**Wiscasset Historic Preservation Commission**

Minutes, 2/16/17

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

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm

2. Consideration of minutes

The minutes from February 2, 2017, amended to reflect that our next meeting was on February 16 (not March 16), were approved 4-0. (Amended minutes attached)

3. Public Comment

Steve Christensen asked to address the commission regarding our discussion at the February 2 meeting of the COA applicant at 4 Fort Hill St. Mr. Christensen felt that it was wrong for Commission members to state, regarding her request to reschedule her COA hearing, that the applicant had been seen out and about at evening events, and that we don’t care about her medical condition. Mr. Christensen does not know the applicant personally, but found the statements troubling and uncalled for.

John thanked him for bringing this issue forward, and agreed wholeheartedly.

Susan noted that it’s a two-way street, and that the Commission is due a certain amount of respect from the public.

4. Workshop on amendments to the Historic Preservation Ordinance.

When we have a draft ready for the Notice of Public Hearing sign, we will need to have it approved by the selectmen. Ben and Susan will work together to make it similar to our COA, approx. 8-1/2” x 14”.

Application fees in most towns of our size are in the $10 - $50 range. Ben suggested using a sliding scale based on major vs minor work. We will need to add a definition of major and minor work to the ordinance.

It was suggested that we create overlay districts within the Historic District so we can use different guidelines for different areas.

5. Other business

The COA applicant from 4 Fort Hill St will attend our meeting of March 16. She was sent a letter as outlined in the February 2 meeting

The next commission meeting will be Thursday, March 2 at 5:00 pm.