

# **Wiscasset Historic Preservation Commission**

Minutes, 5/17/18

Present: John Reinhardt, Gordon Konrath, Wendy Donovan

## 1) Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm

## 2) Consideration of minutes

All moved to accept the minutes of the 4/5/18 meeting as presented. The motion passed 3-0.

## 3) Certificate of Appropriateness review

There were no COA's.

## 4) Old Business

Anne Ball from the Maine Development Foundation came to speak to the commission about the Maine Street program. The Maine Development Foundation is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that promotes economic growth in the state. One of the programs the Foundation offers is the Maine Downtown Center, which coordinates the Maine Street program. There are 10 Maine Street towns in the state and 17 affiliate towns. The Maine Street programs are nationally accredited, stand-alone programs with paid staff. The programs in the affiliate towns are run by volunteers.

The Maine Street program focuses on preservation based economic development. Typically, the funding for the program 1/3 from the business community, 1/3 from the residents, and 1/3 from the municipality. The program employs a 4-point approach: design, promotion, economic vitality, and organization.

It takes months to be ready to apply for Maine Street status. The application is due in October and is available on the website. After application, there are 4 intensive trainings with community members. The Maine Downtown Center offers year-round trainings as well. Dues are typically \$500, \$750, or \$1000, depending on town size (Wiscasset would fall in the \$750 category).

One of the first steps would be to convene a meeting of community members to discuss the downtown. We could also set up an information table at the town meeting.

Susan Blagden noted that we need to clarify what the Maine Street program can do for the town. Konrath stated that we need to include businesses up rt 27 and rt 1.

## 6) New business

There was no new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm

The next commission meeting will be Thursday, June 7 at 5:00 pm.