



**TOWN OF SAUGERTIES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE September 21st, 2020 MEETING**

Present: Commission Chair Stefan Yarabek, Commission Vice-Chair Susan Puret, Commission Members: Alba LaFiandra, Ken Myer, Jr., Commission Alternate Jason Nelson, Town Board Liaison John Schoonmaker, Secretary Jeremy Russell

Excused: Commission Member Peigi Mulligan

(Minutes appear in chronological order. Numbering of items refer to the agenda for the meeting, which is attached)

The Commission met virtually, on the platform Zoom (zoom.us), ID #969-987-8583. The meeting was called to order at 5:06 pm.

Due to connectivity issues, Susan Puret was able to view and listen to the meeting, but unable to address the members. Her vote was not applied to any decisions made during the meeting.

MINUTES: No comments.

A motion was made by Alba LaFiandra, and seconded by Ken Myer, Jr. to accept the minutes of August 17th, 2020. The motion was passed unanimously, 4-0, none opposed.

Jeremy asked whether Susan could hear us, with no response. Stefan stated he was going to welcome John, but he had not yet connected to the meeting. Fred Costello reached out to Stefan and told him John would be liaison until the Town Board fully reorganizes to replace Paul Andreassen. Stefan noted that John's work schedule may require a change in meeting time. Alba said she was retired and amenable to what works for everyone else. Stefan would check with John.

OLD BUSINESS:

1) Asbury District Update: Stefan told the Commission that a letter had been received stating that the contract is ready to be signed for the grant of \$4,893.88 to support the local and state and national register nomination of the district. Stefan had been coordinating with Jeremy, and Terri Wood, Town Supervisor Secretary, to process this request.

Stefan asked if Neil Larson had begun the work on the nomination. Jeremy had contacted him and Neil said that he still hadn't prepared a second contract. Neil said he probably wouldn't be able to start until early 2021. He had offered to come to the meeting, but because he was also traveling, Jeremy told him he'd ask the Commission to have him attend the October meeting. Stefan reminded Jeremy that the grant calls for completion by

September, 2021, and Neil's work should be completed by August 15th, 2021. Stefan thought that the Final Report would be needed by the July Commission meeting, to review the work. Stefan drew up an impromptu timeline of Neil's first submission being in March, and second/final submission of July.

[John connected to this meeting and appears on screen at this point]

2) Historical Markers/Committee Update: At the previous meeting, Jeremy had proposed an idea on creating a commission to research and submit an annual list of potential historical markers to potentially be used to apply for grants and hold town-wide votes. Alba told Audrey that Alba had volunteered her for this Sub-Committee at the previous meeting. Alba and Audrey planned to get together to discuss ideas. Audrey reported that Marjorie Block, Village of Saugerties Historian, inquired as to who had been repainting the signs in the Village that are currently standing. Audrey had coordinated with someone in the past, but they had not in this instance. Audrey didn't know who'd repainted them. Stefan asked for a copy of submissions from Alba and Audrey once it is available.

3) Map and Ramble Update: Jeremy had met with Richard Crist, a local artist who had illustrated for Isaac Asimov for close to ten years, and illustrated a few of his own books, and recently developed a philosophy game with cards with illustrations (similar to Dungeons and Dragons in terms of gameplay using cards).

The problem Jeremy encountered was describing a vision of the map. At this time, Richard was not comfortable leaving his home, however, Jeremy was certain that this project could be arranged digitally.

Stefan asked for samples of his work. Stefan mentioned he'd look at the maps Myles had left with the Commission in his cottage collection. Jeremy mentioned finding much of Myles's work in Barry's materials, and remarked he'd never realized how good and professional Myles's work was. Stefan said he was brilliant, and that he'd like to honor Myles in the construction of this map.

4) Designation Status of Local Landmarks Update: Stefan asked if the deed filings had been completed. Jeremy said he hadn't, and was still trying to figure out why some had been drawn but not filed, and whether historic designations can be filed miscellaneously and then filed with a cross-reference later. Stefan urged Jeremy not to worry about being as thorough with the time-sensitive matters.

5) Winston Farm Update: Stefan had composed a letter to the new owners of Winston Farm and circulated it with the Commission. He reviewed the letter, noting that SHPO (State Historic Preservation Office) had encouraged the local designations, and that it was an important community resource. Stefan would like to talk with them about designation possibilities, and Peigi reminded Stefan about cemeteries on the property. Audrey believes there are three.

Stefan said that the new owners publicly stated that they are not in a hurry to move on development on the property. He asked for permission to send the letter. Alba thought it was a very good and complete letter. She asked if it should be addressed to all owners. Jeremy had heard a rumor that one owner was no longer a part of the corporate entity, but could not verify that. Stefan thought addressing the letter solely to John was better, as they'd had a relationship, and Stefan wasn't sure of the details of the ownership.

A motion was made by Alba, and seconded by Ken, to authorize Stefan to send the draft letter he had written. The motion was passed unanimously, 4-0, none opposed.

6) Historic Alliance of Kingston Update: Audrey had spoken to Nancy Chando (Friends of Historic Kingston) and Taylor Bruck Kingston City Historian) and the genealogical society she is a part of applied to be a part of the group. She was informed that Marbletown was also a part of the group, so it has expanded outside of Kingston.

Stefan thought there weren't any disadvantages to supporting the group. Audrey thinks events will mostly take place in Kingston. Stefan suggested asking whether they would be interested in entertaining a proposition taking place in Saugerties down the road and if it is the case, a regional alliance would be helpful. Audrey believes there are 16 groups in total involved. She included the D&H Canal group's involvement; Stefan said that it would be helpful to be involved with the D&H Canal group's push for trail creation so that they might extend into Saugerties.

A motion was made, by Alba, to apply to join the Historic Alliance of Kingston. It was seconded by Ken. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0, none opposed.

NEW BUSINESS

1) Miscellaneous: Stefan brought to the Commission's attention a situation involving the Rhinebeck Post Office and a mural painted by Olin Dows, a regarded Hudson Valley artist. He also mentioned a similar situation taking place in Kingston at the Academy Green Park. The designer of this park was from Malden. A conversation ensued about how society interacts with its history. Jason gave some information about post office murals in general: There are hundreds around the country, and they were commissioned by the US Postal Service to assist the artist community in the 1930s.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

3) Town Historian's Report (Other than Ramble): Henry Barclay is buried in Trinity Cemetery in Barclay Heights. Barclay is considered to be the primary builder of what Saugerties is today. Audrey has cleaned up Mr. Barclay's gravestone. She will be contacting Benson Steel in the hopes of getting fabrication work done on the fencing around the cemetery. She's also interested in getting some informational signage near the gravesite.

Ken thought he might be able to help. He asked what type of sign Audrey was thinking of. Audrey thought of something one can read, though not so big that it could be read from the road, while driving. Ken and Audrey would meet later to discuss, though not at 2pm the following day, as Ken had an appointment.

Audrey then heard from former Commission Chair and member Michael S. Smith, who had finished scanning the 13th diary of Benjamin Myer Brink, which Audrey will begin transcribing soon. Audrey continues transcribing old newspapers, as well.

2) Secretarial/Financial Report: There were no vouchers submitted.

1) Town Board Liaison's Report: Town Councilman John Schoonmaker was welcomed back to the Commission as Liaison. He said he wished it were under better circumstances. He said that a friend of his that had recently

moved to Saugerties had just joined the Ulster County Historical Society and was interested in getting involved with the Commission, as well. John hoped they'd be at the next meeting.

Stefan asked whether it would be better to change the time of the meeting. John said that 5:30 would be perfect, and everyone was agreeable with this change. Audrey said that Terri Wood should be notified of the official change. Stefan told John that Jeremy produces vouchers, and that Jeremy would be e-mailing to him to pass along to Town Hall.

Stefan asked John if he'd been present for the discussion on the Post Office Murals. John was, and said he'd like to see an educational center representing the good and bad, lest we repeat our mistakes. Stefan told the Commission he's partial to Academy Green in Kingston; he had the privilege of meeting the landscape architect, Herb Cutler, when he moved to Saugerties. Cutler was the first graduate of the landscape architecture program at Syracuse University. He and Stefan advised on the Thruway circle in Kingston to create something special. Audrey asked if he was the President at the Senate House in Kingston; Stefan said yes, and Stefan was the successor. He lived on St. James Street. Stefan hopes that Kingston will become a garden city in the future once again.

Audrey asked if there was ever a resolution to whether the Commission will ever have an office. Stefan didn't think there was money for the originally envisioned idea of having office space, and that we're now relegated to having storage space. Jeremy said that he uses the information every day, so he's been scanning as much as possible if everything is ever moved to Town Hall, as he would not have easy access. Jeremy also mentioned small updates to the website.

Alba asked Jeremy to send the parameters to historic signs.

A motion was made by Alba, seconded by Ken, to adjourn the meeting, at 6:04 pm, so carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeremy Russell
Secretary, Town of Saugerties Historic Preservation Commission

TOWN OF SAUGERTIES HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Supervisor - Fred Costello
Town Board Liaison – John Schoonmaekr

Contact

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Members

Stefan Yarabek - Chair
Susan Poretz - Vice-Chair
Alba LaFiandra
Ken Myer, Jr.
Peigi Mulligan
Jason Nelson (alternate)
Audrey Klinkenberg -
Town Historian, ex officio

Covid19 Web-Meeting, September 21st, 2020 at 5:00 pm

Agenda

Zoom info: Link – <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/9699878583>

Room ID: 969-987-8583

Phone Number to call: 646-558-8656 then dial Room ID

Call to Order

Minutes

Approval of August 17th Minutes.

Old Business:

1. Asbury District Update
2. Historical Markers/Commission Update
3. Map and Ramble Update
4. Designation Status of Local Landmarks Update
5. Winston Farm Update
6. Historic Alliance of Kingston Update

New Business:

1. Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous Business:

- 1.) Town Board Liaison's Report
- 2.) Secretarial/Financial Report
- 3.) Town Historian's Report (Other than Ramble)

Next meeting scheduled for October 19th, 2020

Adjournment

TOWN OF SAUGERTIES HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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Town Board Liaison – John Schoonmaker

Contact

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Financial Report 2020

Beginning Budget - \$15,000.00

2-24-20: Voucher for Secretary Pay and Conference Costs - \$940.74

Remaining budget = \$14,059.26

3-10-20: Voucher for Neil Larson, Asbury Nomination Project - \$1,500.00

Remaining budget = \$12,559.26

5-1-20: Jeremy Russell & Ken Meyer Jr. returned conference booking funds + \$592.73

Remaining budget = \$13,151.99

6-5-20: Voucher for 2 bundles of paper and 1 notebook - \$12.77

6-5-20: Voucher for 3 acid-free flat file boxes, Hollinger Metal Edge (online) - \$66.91

6-5-20: Voucher for Secretary pay, February through Beginning June - \$322.50

Remaining budget = \$12,749.81