

Minutes

The regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission of the Town of Saugerties was held on 21 January 2008.

Present: Michael Sullivan Smith; Susan Puretz; Barry Benepe; Myles Putman; Leeanne Thornton, Town Board Liaison and Kate Kane, Secretary.

Additional Attendees: Mary Alice Lindquist; Ariel Zangla, Daily Freeman.

Barry opened the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

- 1. Minutes of December 17, 2007:** Michael moved to accept the December 17, 2007 minutes. Susan seconded the motion. All unanimous.
- 2. Correspondence: Designation Letters:** Barry passed out copies of the letters sent to the homeowners of the properties that were designated by the Commission at the 17 December 2007 meeting.

Michael said that he would like to see the stone walls at the corner of the McCabe House property mentioned in the designation because they are shown on the USGS map and indicate the corner of the original block dating to the Kingston Commons division.

Mary Alice asked if any of the members of the Commission knew what the symbols found on the lintels of stone houses in the area meant. She said that she had found information on her property dating to 1787 at the Ulster County office building, but was unable to find information on the lintel symbols. Michael said that the lintels typically included symbols for the original owner's occupation. Mary Alice also said that the original owner's name was Conyers and that her house is a bank house located on the Vlykill as it flows into the Plattekill.

Barry asked if Mary Alice would like to designate her house. Mary Alice said that she wanted to know what the limitations to future building or other aspects of altering the property would be if she chose to designate. Barry said that she could help to shape the designation and that a possible advantage to designation would be that the commission could help to document the history of the house. Mary Alice said that she would continue to consider the option of designation.

- 3. Historic Homes Tour:** Barry asked the Commission members if they felt that hosting an historic homes tour was a good idea. He said that, depending on the homeowner's preference, it could feature the exteriors of homes only. He mentioned that the advantage of such a tour would be to showcase community history and provide residents with an idea of the historic resources within the town. Barry asked Susan if she would be interested in making preliminary contacts for such a tour using the 2005 Cultural Resource Survey. Leeanne suggested a 30-minute special on the local cable access channel.

4. Guidelines: Barry said that despite Josh's absence he would like to discuss the topic of guidelines so that the Commission could begin to decide what format they would take. Barry reminded the commission that the guidelines are a summary of the provisions of the law – that the purpose of the guidelines are stated within the law. Susan asked if the guidelines would follow the City of Kingston guidelines. Barry provided the members with copies of the Kingston guidelines. Leeanne said that she believed the city received an \$8000 grant to produce them. Leeanne reminded Barry that the guidelines would help to clarify the Certified Local Government application / designation for the Town of Saugerties.

Barry asked the commission members what are they were trying to do with the guidelines. Myles said that the commission was trying to make the process user friendly. Susan said that Saugerties probably did not need the "how to" section found in the Kingston guidelines. Barry said that the guidelines are for the second part of the law, which would be for reviewing changes made to a property following designation. He said that this seemed to be what people were concerned with. Susan said that the Commission really needed Josh's draft guidelines in order to decide what should or should not be contained within them. Barry agreed that it was okay to suspend discussion until the draft guidelines were available for review.

5. Other Old Business: Susan asked if the Certificate of Appropriateness had been completed. Michael said that it was done and filed. Leeanne asked if it had been put on a disc and submitted to the Town. Leanne said the Commission would need to be sure that the Town Clerk had copies.

6. New Business: Michael said that the Jeremiah Russell turnpike house needed to be secured and cleaned out. He asked if it could be purchased and given to others to manage.

Barry said that the Commission should be actively searching out properties to designate.

Michael said that he would like to be added to the agenda for the next meeting. He said that he would like to give a slide presentation on the Kingston Commons.

Barry made a motion to adjourn. Susan seconded and approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

The next Commission meeting will be held at 4 o'clock in the Town of Saugerties' Building Department Conference Room Tuesday, February 19, 2008.

Kate Kane