

Town of Saugerties Historic Preservation Commission

18 JUNE 2018: 5 PM

Minutes

Present: Stefan Yarabek, chair Susan Puretz, vice chair; Michael Sullivan Smith, Barry Benepe.

Town Liaison: Paul Andreassen, John Schoonmaker

Town Historian: - Audrey Klinkenberg

Guests: - Samantha Dederick, Bob Dederick, David Baker, Richard Walker, Jamie Fine, Joanne Lipton.

The meeting was called to order by Stefan Yarabek at 5:03.

IN MEMORIUM: Myles Putman left us on June 5, 2018. Myles brought perspective to this commission and will be missed.

At the time of his accidental death, he was working on the Central Hudson issues in the town of Saugerties. The Town Board agreed that the Commission would be in the forefront of that discussion. Fred Costello, stated today that Vernon Benjamin could probably be the lead person on this.

1. Minutes of May 21, 2018. It was moved by Stefan and seconded by Susan to approve the minutes as corrected. Barry, aye; Michael, aye; Susan, aye, Stefan, aye.

2. Asbury – The Solar Farm development has been discontinued. The Commission started the process of a district in Asbury. The question asked by Sam Dederick at the last meeting was whether the Commission had contacted the Est. of Mr. Smith. Two Smith parcels are the largest part of the district. Stefan reviewed the minutes of the last meeting for the district.

3. Presentation to Barry Benepe, on the occasion of his 90th birthday from the Historic Preservation Commission.

4. The Friends of Malden made a presentation regarding the Poultney Bigelow Memorial Park in the hamlet of Malden.

Rich Walker gave a history of Malden-on-Hudson and the Bigelow Family and distributed a handout called Poultney Bigelow Memorial Park.

David Baker read a note from Karlyn Elia, dated Jun 18, 2018 and given to Rich Walker.

“As I have mentioned to you previously, developing a beautification strategy for the Poultney Bigelow Park as well as erecting concise, factual signage regarding the Bigelow legacy, will I believe, re-establish the identity of Malden and become a focal point for the community.”

Stefan stated that the Commission recognizes the historic fabric of the park, and will continue to study the area, and support the improvement of the park with the town. Stefan says the Commission can support a grant application and assist with data. The monument and cannon can be nominated as a local landmark.

Susan suggested that the Malden group look at the local ordinance No. 3.

5. Michael Sullivan Smith suggested Peigi Mulligan as a member of the Commission. Michael moved that Peigi Mulligan become a member of the Historic Preservation Commission, seconded by Susan. Barry, aye, Stefan, aye, Susan, aye, Michael aye, unanimous. The Commission will forward her name to the Supervisor's

secretary. John Schoonmaker noted that there is a special town board meeting on June 28 where her name can be presented.

6. Discussion of "The Mudder", to be held this summer on the Winston Farm property and the understanding that reclamation will be complete.

7. Recap of the House Tour by Susan Puretz. Susan distributed a summary that she had prepared and commented that the bottom line was that there was a loss of 419.92 for the day. That loss will be covered by the funds that had been accumulated from the previous four House Tours. Otherwise it was a very successful event with many glowing compliments. (report attached)

a.. Susan asked the Town Liaisons if the town supply a place for the former items from the house tours from the past in addition to the file cabinet which was assigned to the HPC.

b. Michael announced that the website historichousetour.com is up and running.

c. Paul suggested that the next house tour be in memory of Myles Putman. Jolene and Susan will be putting a scrapbook together from the 2018 tour.

8. Paul asked whether there is anything owed to Myles. Answer seems to be: the secretarial salary for May and the reimbursement of the conference, which is an unknown amount.

Next meeting July 16, 2018. Note: Stefan will not be in town.

Town Historian Report. Unable to attend the Library celebration because I was not invited.

Moved by Michael and seconded by Susan that the meeting be adjourned.

Meeting adjourned 6:45 p. m.

Audrey Klinkenberg

Secretary pro tem.

HOUSE TOUR 2018 SUMMARY

1. OVERVIEW:

This was our first hybrid tour and consisted of travel by a bus to visit 3 stone houses. Tickets were purchased on-line at Brown Paper Tickets (except for 4 walk-ins on the day of the tour).

On the bus, tour participants were entertained (by Gary Grady, a professional actor) and enlightened (by our local expert Michael Sullivan Smith) with an historical narrative pointing out the various structures that were passed en route to the three houses. The three houses were: Sebring House/Holland Hall, Shoemaker/Hoff House, and the Peter Winnie/Abraham Snyder House. At each house, the participants walked thru the interiors and received detailed information about the structure by each of the Homeowners. At each house, the bus's participants entered in groups of 12 to minimize crowding. It was anticipated that the participants would be able to roam and explore the exterior of the houses and get a feel for the landscape, either before or after they went through the house, unfortunately, rain on the day of the tour, for the most part, prevented that from happening. Refreshments (sweets and tea and lemonade) were served at the final house of the tour. Several of us were in period costumes.

There were two tours scheduled, one beginning at 9:00 and the second at 1:00. Both tours left from the check-in point (Saugerties High School), and each tour lasted approximately 3 ½ hours.

Each participant was given a 30 page Brochure which included not only Descriptions of each of the three houses, but an Introduction, "A Bird's Eye View of Saugerties History," Information on Stone houses as well as information on the Proposed Asbury Historic District Designation. In addition, a detailed summary/guide of the sights (and their history) that were seen "Along the way ..." was included. This extensive guidebook and its accompanying map were prepared by Myles Putman.

A subcommittee of 9 people was formed and those members took responsibility for the various tasks that had to be done. The Subcommittee met officially 11 times (the first time on Oct. 24, 2017 and then the final meeting on June 11 for a debriefing); however, numerous informal meetings were held. The HPC was kept apprised of the progress of the Tour by Susan Puretz verbally at HPC meetings and in writing with Summaries of all the meetings thru the end of April.

Publicity was extensive and included: a web page, a facebook page, rack cards that were mailed to 2000 households by Ulster Tourism, articles in local newspapers, radio announcements, Channel 23, contacts with other historical organizations to name just a few.

The House Descriptions were researched and then written, and re-written several times. Input and acceptance by the Home Owners was a key part of the procedure. In the process new historical information was gained for each of the houses.

Volunteers who worked one approximately 2 hour shift were recruited. They met at the High School, car-pooled to their assigned sites and familiarized themselves with the houses that were assigned. There were a total of 29 day of tour volunteers.

The subcommittee consisted of:

Publicity: Lucette Runsdorf

Tickets/Refreshments: Jolene Adams

Write-Ups: Lizbeth Shaffer

Volunteers: Diane Kniss-who had to drop out in April and Carla Barrett who took her place.

Brochure Creation: Mark Smith

Jack of all Trades: Mary Alice Lindquist

Rack Card Creation: Michael Sullivan Smith and Mark Smith

Consultants: Myles Putman, Michael Sullivan Smith

This event was supported by: the Town Supervisor, who provided the legal resources and also arranged for the portable toilet at house 2 (Shoemaker/Hoff House) for the day of the tour; the Saugerties Central School graciously allowed us to use the High School facility as the tour "base"; and the Town of Saugerties Police Department. Chief Sinagra had a police officer assigned to follow the bus to direct traffic at each of the three house stops. In the booklet, on the Acknowledgement Page, and with follow-up notes, all people (businesses/town organizations/day of tour volunteers, etc.) were thanked.

On the day after the Tour (Sunday, May 20th), a Thank-You Reception was held at Jolene Adam's house (the third house on the tour) for the other two homeowners and the committee. Unfortunately, at the last minute Andy McVinish and Lauren Anderson, the owners of the Sebring House, were unable to come.

Recommendations from the Debriefing Meeting of June 11, 201. Note: This meeting took place the day of the "visitation" for Myles Putman, who was accidentally killed on June 5th when a tree limb fell on him. There were 6 of us in attendance at the Debriefing Meeting.

Basically, the recommendation was that the TOUR WAS SUCCESSFUL AND WE SHOULD DO IT AGAIN.

Despite the bad weather, the turnout, although not sold out, was good for a first time event. The price of \$20.00 was approved and the sale of tickets through Brown Paper Tickets worked very well. The deadline for proof copy to Mark Smith for brochure production should be at least 2 weeks earlier. Some suggestions included:

Possibly taking ads for the booklet, using ribbons to block access to areas in houses that were off-limits.

2. HOUSES AND OWNERS:

Sebring House/Holland Hall: Andrew McVinish and Lauren Anderson

Shoemaker/Hoff House: Robert and Ginny Miller

Peter Winne/Abraham Snyder House: Jolene Adams

3. FINANCIAL (The Bottom Line):

A. The projected income of \$1800.00 for 90 tickets at \$20.00 per ticket did not materialize. Income was 1420.00 for 71 tickets and 15.00 from the sale of maps for a total of \$1435.00

B. Expenses were \$1854.92

C. Bottom Line: The Tour lost money (- \$419.92) because we did not sell the expected number of tickets. The difference will be made up from the funds accumulated from the tours of 2009 - 2012 (i.e., \$ 2,117.76)

If my math is correct, there will be a balance of \$1697.84 left in the HPC's House Tour Checking Account.

Respectfully submitted: Susan Puretz, Vice-Chair, Historic Preservation Commission

Attachment: Expense/Income Chart