

Historic Preservation Commission
21 April 2014

Building Department Conference Room

Minutes

Present: Barry Benepe, chair, Michael Sullivan Smith, Susan Puretz, Stephen Shaffer

Liaison to Town Board: Bill Schirmer

Secretary: Audrey M. Klinkenberg, Town Historian, Deputy County Historian

Excused: Josh Randall.

Meeting called to order by the chair at 7:05.

1. Minutes of March 17, 2014. It was moved by Michael and seconded by Stephen that the minutes of the March 17, 2014 meeting be approved as submitted. Michael, aye; Barry, aye; Stephen; aye; Susan, aye. Unanimous.

2. Possible Designation 1655 Old King's Highway, SBL 8.4-8-16 belonging to Dr. Robert Smith and Mrs. Helen Smith. Stephen reported that the Smiths thought they knew enough about the law so that they did not need to attend. This item was tabled. This house is called the Old Katsbaan Parsonage.

3. Possible Tour of National/State Register Properties (Barry & Susan) The houses: Augusta Savage House, Christian Myer House, Opus 40, Trumpbour Homestead, Wynkoop House, Sebring House, Aaron Snyder House.

Susan had a meeting of the tour committee last week. The committee decided that more discussion was needed. Another meeting will be held.

Susan asked both Barry and Stephen, if they would be willing to have their homes open as part of the tour. Barry said, yes. Stephen would need to discuss it further.

Barry thought that the education of the public on the whys and wherefores designation of a home should be a priority.

4. Wynkoop House Follow-up. Susan stated that she had been told that Supervisor Greg Helsmoortel had requested copies of the Commission minutes involving the deliberations of the Commission on the possibility of a hotel on the Wynkoop property. Susan wanted to clarify the Commission's actions because she thought it might be related to hearing talk that the Commission was an obstruction to this process. Discussion ensued. It was noted that the Commission never received an application for a hotel on this property.

5. Summary of Actions on Designations and Certificates of Appropriateness.

Barry asked for a summary of the actions and designations, including those not approved by the Town Board. He asked the secretary to put a listing together. (Included properties considered for designation would be: Opus 40, Augusta Savage Road, and Winston Farm, Carriage Road, and the Christian Myer House. Properties for the C of A would include: Snyder farm mobile home, subdivision for the Wynkoop house.

6. Budget – Barry reported that he spoke to Julie Dunn, the Town bookkeeper. She did not have the most up to date numbers. Bill spoke to Greg and the updated budget (\$1500.00 and the carry over money from the house tour (\$2173.70), are in place at this time. Bill Schirmer handled this with the Town Board. The secretary's salary was increased in April from \$10.00 to \$15.00 per hour.

7. Status of Guidelines. Michael reported that the Guidelines are in four sections and there is no table of contents at this point. Because of the continued confusion over the Guidelines, Michael tried to clarify its current status. He stated that they are currently posted on the town website (even though they are difficult to find). He indicated that three sections have already been approved by the State (and the Commission's 2011 Heritage Week program included the distribution of those NYS approved guidelines (3 sections). Because of continued confusion, it was decided that the Commission would look at the Guidelines at its May meeting. Copies will be provided at that time by either Bill or Michael.

8. Reconsideration of March 17 Election. Stephen moved that the elections of March 17 be rescinded. This was seconded by Susan Poretz. Michael, aye, Stephen, aye; Susan, aye; Barry, aye. Unanimous.

Barry called for nominations for chairman. Stephen nominated Josh Randall, seconded by Susan. Michael, aye, Stephen, aye; Susan, aye; Barry, abstained. Carried.

Susan nominated Barry for vice-chairman, seconded by Michael. Michael, aye, Stephen, aye; Susan, aye; Barry, abstained. Carried.

9. Other Old and New Business:

Susan asked if Commissioners wanted a copy of Managing Change: Preserving and Rightsizing in America, produced by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, which Bill Schirmer had duplicated at her request. Copies were distributed.

Susan stated that certain members do not have copies of the handbook that Josh had created for Commission members. Susan will be responsible for having 3 copies made for current and future members.

Bill Schirmer was able to get the estate proceedings in Westchester Co. for the Jeremiah Russell Turnpike House. Joseph Keegan is deceased leaving a wife, Marion, no children were mentioned. It is eligible for tax auction on Wednesday of this week. Michael has not received

any response to the letter he wrote regarding the person who wanted to take the building down and use the stones in another county.

Bryce Marden, who owns the Ferry Point area, is not interested in designation for 26 Ferry Street Extension.

There being no further business, the Commission adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Audrey M. Klinkenberg

Secretary