

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission of the Town of Saugerties was held on 23 June 2008.

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

Additional Attendees: Spider Barbour

Barry opened the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

- 1. Minutes of June 2, 2008:** Following a brief review by Commission members, Josh made a motion to accept the minutes. Michael seconded. Josh: aye; Susan: aye; Barry: aye, Myles: abstain. Motion passed.
- 2. Changes to Section 4 C of Historic Preservation Ordinance:** Josh made a motion to accept the changes presented to Section 4 C of the Historic Preservation Ordinance. Michael seconded. Josh: aye; Susan: aye; Barry: aye; Myles: aye; Michael: aye. Motion passed unanimously.
- 3. Changes to Section 6 of Historic Preservation Ordinance:** Barry suggested changes (and submitted copies of the text to Commission members) to the verbiage of the Historic Preservation Ordinance so that the ordinance would cover historic roads on private property. Barry then asked if the Commission members had any changes or modifications to the proposed verbiage. Following discussion, Josh made a motion to accept as written the changes to Section 6 of the Historic Preservation Ordinance. Michael seconded. Susan: aye; Barry: aye; Myles: aye; Michael: aye. Motion passed unanimously.
- 4. Changes to Sections 13, 14 and 15 of Historic Preservation Ordinance:** Josh submitted copies to Commission members of his changes to the verbiage of Section 13 of the Historic Preservation Ordinance. He explained his changes to this section, which covers appeals regarding hardship and suggested that the Town's ordinance follow the model law word-for-word. By doing so, the content of Sections 14 and 15 would be affected as well – as some information from each section would shift. Josh explained that the model law would allow the Commission to recognize hardship as a basis for appeal and that the timeframe for filing an appeal would be trimmed to fifteen (15) days. Susan asked if a person could go to court if s/he were not happy with the Town Board and the Commission. Barry said that s/he could go to court. Spider asked if grants were available to help owners of historic properties with maintenance and upkeep. Frank Orlando agreed that restoration improvements to restore properties approved by HPC would not result in a rise in assessment. Barry asked if Josh would be willing to speak to Frank Orlando regarding homeowner changes to historic properties (such as adding aluminum siding). Josh agreed that he would speak to Frank about the issue. Susan moved to accept the

Barry asked the Commission members if they should advertise at the next meeting for this issue. Following discussion, it was agreed that Josh and Myles should meet with Barry and the changes to the Historic Preservation Ordinance should be made before the public was involved in this issue.

8. Old Carriage Road at Esopus Bend: Barry said that approximately a year ago Susan Bolitzer, the President of the Esopus Creek Conservancy (ECC) had come to a Commission meeting to support the historic designation of this road. He added that Vern Benjamin had done a lot of research on this road. Josh said that before a public hearing could be held on this issue, that Commission members needed to review the file of information that Barry had on the road. Barry agreed to copy his files and have them available for Commission members to review. Michael asked if the ECC could be given a form wherein it could ask for designation of the road. Barry said that was possible and he would follow-up and send a letter to them.

9. Platt Clove Road: Susan said that she had been walking this road and that she felt that when the road was originally paved in the 1960s that it paved over a portion of the Quarry Road. Barry asked Susan if she and Josh would pursue this item. Susan and Josh agreed.

10. Other Old Business: Susan mentioned the Commission's idea of a stone house tour. The tour would be self-guided and detailed in a brochure with pictures of the homes. Barry asked if, due to the late hour, this issue could be tabled until the next meeting. All agreed.

Josh made a motion to adjourn. Susan seconded. All unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.

The next Commission meeting will be held at 7 o'clock in the Town of Saugerties' Building Department Conference Room Monday, August 11, 2008.

Kate Kane