

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission of the Town of Saugerties was held on 7 April 2008.

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

Barry opened the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

1. Minutes of March 17, 2008: Josh made a motion to accept the minutes. Michael seconded. All unanimous.

2. Change in Meeting Date: Barry suggested changing the regular meeting date of the Commission to the first Monday of each month. Josh moved to accept the motion. Barry seconded. All unanimous.

3. Historic Roads Designations: Augusta Savage / Niger / Buffalo and the Carriage Road at Esopus Bend. Barry said that he wanted to discuss the designation of the Augusta Savage, Niger, Buffalo and carriage road at Esopus Bend despite the fact that the Commission recognized, in its 17 March meeting, that more research would be needed to proceed on designating the roads.

Josh offered to provide information such as name, address and tax information on the homeowners that would be impacted by the designation of the roads. Susan asked if Buffalo Road was being considered up to Henry Wells Road. Barry said that it was. Barry asked if anyone knew the name of the person who testified at the August Savage dedication. Josh said that it was Vernon Benjamin. Susan asked if Vernon Benjamin would be a source for documentation on the road. Barry said that both he (Vernon) and Myles Putman would be good sources. Myles said that Wilhelm Road was the only road well-documented in the Ulster County courthouse records.

Barry suggested that the Commission should walk the roads to map them and that public hearings on the designations of the roads should be held one at a time. Barry added that the current law doesn't cover historic roads and only requires a consultation regarding their alteration. Josh asked if the inclusion of historic road designation could be a simple addendum to the law.

4. Certified Local Government: Josh said that Julian Adams didn't address the items that he spoke to the Commission about, particularly in terms that the Town Board would understand. Susan said that the letter from Julian Adams to the Town Board needed to stress the advantages to the town of the Certified Local Government program. Barry said that, as far as he knew, the March 4, 2008 version of the letter was the only one received from Julian Adams. Leeanne said that the March 4 version of the letter from Julian was presented to the Town's lawyer and that he was asked to provide comment on it. Leeanne said that the lawyer has not replied as of 7 April 2008. Leeanne said that if Julian

could review the current law and strike out items that weren't appropriate and add-in items from the Model Law, that that action might speed the process along during Town Board review. LeeAnne said that the message to the Town Board was that there were minor changes needed to the law and that following the necessary changes the Town can go forward to pursue funding for publications like the guidelines.

5. Guidelines: Barry asked the Commission if the buildings from the 2005 Survey of Historic Properties were eligible for the National Register. Michael said that they were – unless they weren't permitted. Michael asked if the information from the 2005 survey could be added to the Town Assessor's tax assessment information – as it is more accurate than what is presently available. Barry suggested that Jeremy Kane, the Town Planner, might be able to use the Commission's map of historic properties that Michael created to cross reference information available from the assessor's office.

Josh asked if all of the Commission members were getting copies of the 2005 Survey of Historic Properties. LeeAnne said that the Town is hesitant to make extra copies of the survey since the photographs would make color copies very expensive. Josh said that he would make a copy of the survey and put it on a CD-R. Michael suggested that it might be easier to get the survey onto a CD-R first and then print from the CD-R. Barry asked Josh if he would follow up on this item. Josh said that he would.

Barry asked if all of the Commission members had a copy of the outline that Josh had prepared of the guidelines. Copies were distributed to those members who didn't have one. Barry passed around representative guidelines from other communities for the Commission to review and discuss. Barry then suggested that the Commission review Josh's outline item by item. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that it was important to distinguish between a designation and the certificate of appropriateness.

Michael asked if it were possible for the Commission to obtain the use of a desk or space in the Town Assessor's office. LeeAnne said that the old Building Department office is an area that might be available. Barry added that the flat file that Michael offered to the Commission would fit nicely in this area.

6. Certificate of Appropriateness: Barry said that Susan sent a draft version of the Certificate of Appropriateness to all of the members. All of the members indicated that they had received this document. Barry said that the certificate should be sent to all homeowners with a letter to accompany it. Barry asked Susan if she could work on a draft letter to send to the homeowners. Barry added that a copy of the Certificate of Appropriateness should be given to the Building Department and the Town Clerk.

7. Old Business: Michael said that he felt that the Town Board should initiate efforts to involve the Town of Saugerties in the upcoming (2009) quadricentennial of Henry Hudson's voyage. LeeAnne said that the Town had

applied for a grant to pursue activities with other communities. Leeanne said that a community committee would be formed for this purpose.

Barry asked if Michael's re-appointment to the Historic Preservation Commission was on the Town Board's agenda for the next meeting. Leeanne confirmed that his reappointment was on the agenda.

8. New Business: Josh said that he would like to see all of the Commission's designations put on the Town's website with photographs and descriptions of the properties. Leeanne asked if homeowner permission would be needed to publish this type of information. Barry added that it was important for the Commission to make the point that the properties are a physical reality and that they serve as a tactile link between the past and the present.

Josh said that he thought that when the Commission designated a property that it should provide a plaque or other emblem to serve as an indicator to the homeowner that the property was a designated historic entity. Michael agreed and said that he felt that the presentation of this type of emblem might serve as a publicity generator if the press were to be invited to the presentation. Barry said that he liked the idea and that it should be pursued.

Josh made a motion to adjourn. Michael seconded. All unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:51pm.

The next Commission meeting will be held at 7 o'clock in the Town of Saugerties' Building Department Conference Room Monday, May 5, 2008.

Kate Kane