

Historic Preservation Commission
May 20, 2013
Building Department Conference Room 7:00 pm
Minutes

Present: Michael Sullivan Smith, chair, Josh Randall, Susan Puretz, Barry Benepe, Stephen Shafer

Jimmy Bruno, Liaison, Deputy Town Supervisor

Audrey Klinkenberg, secretary, Town Historian, Associate Ulster County Historian

The meeting was called to order by Michael Sullivan Smith, chairperson, at 7:08 pm.

Approval of minutes of April meeting. It was moved by Josh and seconded by Stephen that the minutes of the April, 2013 meeting be approved. Michael, aye; Susan, aye; Stephen, aye; Barry, aye; Josh, aye. Unanimous.

Opus 40 notification. The Opus 40 group did not respond to Michael's letter sent via the postal service. Michael plans to visit the site.

Discussion of the commission's relationship to Friends of Clovelea. Michael says that Clovelea is a symbol, and should be thought of that way. He likened this situation to the old post office in Kingston, which became a Jack in the Box. He feels that this commission should have a link with Clovelea. Preservation carries benefits, ie tax incentives. If a property owner has nice view, there is a code that raises taxes. Every tax lot has a code. Susan suggests that a property owner could open their house to the public as a payback for a lower tax assessment. This change in the tax laws would have to be done at the state level, Josh believes that the state is already over extended. Josh would be opposed to a tax abatement or exception.

Susan asks what happens after the public hearing on Wednesday, beginning at 7 pm. Michael replies that the Historic Review Board should call for a vote after the hearing.

Josh asked whether the village government has a printed survey of its historic buildings. the business district has 82 buildings, the south side has 24. The town survey has 155 buildings. The answer, from Michael, was that the village has the SHPO blue sheets on the properties included in the two historic districts.

Barry mentioned a program called Façade Easements, which needs to be investigated. Ossining, N. Y. is a part of this program. The owner cannot change the façade without approval.

Barry asked if the Friends of Clovelea want to buy the Clovelea property. Stephen answered that the Friends of Clovelea want to assist in finding a buyer willing to purchase the property. Michael hopes to be able to educate home owners through the Friends of Clovelea on the importance of preservation.

Old Business: Josh asked about the merger between the Commission and the Historic Review Board. Jimmy suggested that the Commission meet with the Village Board. Josh stated that the consensus of opinion was almost unanimous that the merger was a good idea. Barry is not convinced that the merger would be a good idea. Michael stated that there are two reasons, the Commission has the authority, through the ordinance, to write letters, but the village review board does not have that authority. Michael did not elaborate on the second reason.

New Business: Michael announced that there are now flat files on the second floor of the office of Attorney Daniel N. Lamb, Jr. Many maps have been sorted and placed in the file drawers.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35

Audrey Klinkenberg

Secretary