

Minutes

The regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission of the Town of Saugerties was held on 17 December 2007.

Present: Barry Benepe, Susan Puretz, Myles Putnam Josh Randall, Michael Sullivan Smith and Kate Kane, Secretary.

Barry opened the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

1. Introduction of new secretary, Kate Kane: Barry introduced Kate Kane as the newly appointed secretary to the commission, and a brief discussion followed to ensure that Kate would be able to obtain the files and necessary equipment to record the meetings from Terry Schmidt, who had been serving as acting secretary.

2. Minutes of November 15, 2007: Josh moved to accept the November 15, 2007 minutes. Michael said that he had many comments and/or corrections to add to the minutes before he could approve them. Barry suggested that the committee take a few minutes to read through the minutes and voice any corrections or concerns following the read-through.

Susan suggested that a written history is not as essential for hearing / should be a supplement to, rather than a component of, the minutes. An agreement was reached to change spellings that occurred incorrectly in the 15 November 2007 minutes.

Following the discussion, Josh moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Susan seconded the motion. Barry, Susan, Myles, Josh and Michael unanimous.

3. Correspondence: Barry read a letter from Shirley Van Vlierden indicating that she was sorry that she was not able to attend the public hearing on the designation of the Clark Van Vlierden House.

4. Proposed Landmark Designation of James Brink Farm (Anchorage Farm) on Mynderse Street: Barry reminded the commission that a property must meet one of the six criteria listed in Section 5 of the Historic Preservation Ordinance in order for a property to be designated.

Josh felt that the Brink Farm qualified under item #1 of that document, because the property was thought to be the site of the Little Sawyer Mill. Barry reminded the group that Michael mentioned previously that Henry Hudson set foot on shore here and had spent time in the area proximate to the fresh water of the Sawyer Kill for trading.

Michael mentioned that a map dating to 1740 shows a mill on the Esopus and a mill on the Sawyer Kill, and that this map is available on the Library of Congress website.

Barry said that he felt that the strongest criterion for the Brink Farm to be designated is its special character and historic interest. Josh agreed.

Josh moved to make a motion to designate the James Brink Farm under criterion #1 of the Town of Saugerties Historic Preservation Ordinance. Michael seconded. A roll call vote was taken:

Josh Randall:	Aye
Susan Puretz:	Aye
Barry Benepe:	Aye
Myles Putnam:	Aye
Michael Sullivan Smith:	Aye

Motion to designate the James Brink Farm was accepted unanimously.

5. Proposed Landmark Designation of Michael McCabe House on High Falls Road: Barry mentioned that the most important item to establish is boundaries. Michael said that the Kingston Commons property maps indicate that this parcel was originally Lot #30 – but that the first owner is not known. Michael indicated that the next step would be to recognize the class that this property falls under. Several of the original property maps for the Kingston Commons are missing. These original property maps would show the first owner. Subsequent owners / divisions are known, however.

Barry asked the other members of the commission to look at aerial photos of the property to identify the location of the house, High Falls Road and the general property line.

Myles indicated that a trace line running north-south might be a stone wall. Michael said that a different line running east-west was indicated as the stone wall on the USGS map. Myles said that he would verify that USGS maps identify stone walls.

Barry asked the committee if the possible history of the site as a quarry and as a quarry man's home would qualify the site under criterion #2 of Section 5 of the Historic Preservation Ordinance. Michael said that there isn't enough evidence describing McCabe as a quarry man – that he was described as a farmer. Barry agreed that there isn't evidence remaining of a quarry, either. Josh agreed with this statement. Barry said that the more interesting personality attached to the property was A. A. Champanier – an artist whose feel for the land, siting of the house and materials used in his site work might be significant enough to qualify under criterion #2. Barry added that the property and use of the house became a testimony to the use of stone and that as such it was identified with historic

personages. Additionally, the property possessed an intact footprint of an original Kingston Commons division (as Lot #30) dating to 1683.

Susan asked to clarify the role of the Town Board in the process of designating properties under the Historic Preservation Ordinance. Barry answered that the Town has 45 days to void or modify the designation. Otherwise, the designation stands.

Josh moved to designate the property at High Falls Road in accordance with Sections 5-A and 5-2 of the Historic Preservation Ordinance. A roll call vote was taken:

Josh Randall:	Aye
Susan Puretz:	Aye
Barry Benepe:	Aye
Myles Putnam:	Aye
Michael Sullivan Smith:	Aye

Motion to designate the Michael McCabe House on High Falls Road was accepted unanimously.

6. Proposed Landmark Designation of the Clark Van Vlierden House on Clark Van Vlierden Road: Barry indicated that he will provide photographs of the property at Van Vlierden Road for members at the next meeting. Susan assumed the role of Chair of the Commission for discussion related to the Clark Van Vlierden House. Barry said that he'd like to clarify who Philip Van Vlierden was. Michael mentioned that the name first occurs in 1822 in deed books. Lot #22 in the 4th class is property near Blue Mountain Road / store. Lot #30 in 3rd class (1849) appears as 10 acres – located on modern-day Happy Road / George Sickle Road. In 1889 Clark Van Vlierden's purchase appears – however all family burial sites are in Woodstock. Barry indicated that Clark Van Vlierden's daughter suggested that the house was moved and put on a new foundation and that Patus Van Vlierden was a minister from 1793-1808 and the last Dutch-speaking minister of the church.

Josh asked the committee to entertain a vote on the designation of the Clark Van Vlierden House.

Barry suggested that the turn-of-the-century farm cottage, original post & beam frame, original frame materials, original cellar walls and foundations of the original barn and corn crib still intact on the property, in addition to a verbally recorded history of farming on the site during the 1920s-1930s and oral records of family history dating to Clark Van Vlierden's daughter qualify it under criterion #1 and possibly criterion #3 of Section 5 of the Historic Preservation Ordinance.

Josh made the motion to designate the Clark Van Vlierden House under items 5-A and 5-2 of the Town of Saugerties Historic Preservation Ordinance. Susan seconded. A roll call vote was taken:

Michael Sullivan Smith:	Aye
Myles Putnam:	Aye
Barry Benepe:	Abstain
Susan Puretz:	Aye
Josh Randall:	Aye

7. Proposed Guidelines: Josh indicated that the guidelines are still in the process of being written and that he will have an outline or more after the Christmas holidays. Barry asked about the possibility of a presentation on cable access channel 23 and Michael asked if there was any word from the lawyer regarding the content. Leanne Thorton said that there had been no word back. **Barry indicated that he will be in touch with Julian Adams as to coming to discuss the ordinance with the group.**

8. Other Old Business: Michael indicated that he will need a response from legal before he starts making statements.

Leanne reminded the commission that there will be an open house for Channel 23 on January 26 from 11-2 pm. Barry suggested a voice-over of material while images show. Leanne added that a student from a local high school media class or a Key Club member might be a good candidate for voicework.

Barry said that Jennifer Schwartz told him that she knew of an aerial photographer who might be willing to help the commission. Barry requested that Josh work on a history of decisions of the Historic Preservation Commission.

9. New Business: Barry asked if there were any new business. Josh made a suggestion that for the first few meetings of 2008 to get the commission's internal house in order to educate the Town Board on what the commission is doing. Michael indicated that he would like to give them a presentation on the Kingston Commons maps. Barry suggested that a room in the Town Hall might be more comfortable for future meetings. All members were in agreement.

Barry made a motion to adjourn. Michael seconded and approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:10.

The next Commission meeting will be held at the Town of Saugerties' Building Department Conference Room Monday, January 21, 2008.

Kate Kane