



**TOWN OF SAUGERTIES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 25th, 2021 MEETING**

Present: Commission Chair Stefan Yarabek, Commission Vice-Chair Susan Puret, Commission Members: Alba LaFiandra, Ken Myer, Jr., Commission Alternate Jason Nelson, Town Board Liaison John Schoonmaker, Town Historian Audrey Klinkenberg, Secretary Jeremy Russell.

Excused: Commission Member Peigi Mulligan

(Minutes appear in chronological order. Numbering of items refer to the agenda for the meeting, which is attached)

The Commission met virtually, on the platform Zoom (zoom.us), ID #969-987-8583.

The budget for the Historic Preservation Commission is no longer maintained as a separate line item, thus, there will be no separate financial report provided, as it was in fiscal year 2020.

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 pm.

MINUTES: Stefan began the meeting with an apology, as he was having computer problems, and joined by phone only. He asked if there were any comments on the minutes of January. Alba said that the painting of the suspension bridge near the Great Falls Manufacturing was not in the Museum of Modern Art, but in either the Museum of Natural History or the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Jeremy said that he found the painting on Chester Hartwell's collection of pictures on the I Like Saugerties Facebook Page, and determined the painting was in the New York Historical Society's collection. Alba said that Jeremy had misidentified the "Northern" and "Southern" sections of cemeteries in the minutes.

[At this juncture, Susan's video feed had frozen, and she had been inadvertently dropped from the meeting.]

Alba made a motion to approve the minutes, and it was seconded by Ken. Approval passed 4-0, none opposed. Susan was not present for this vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Budget Update: Stefan announced that the Commission had dutifully spent a majority of the budget, leaving approximately \$274 for the fiscal year. Stefan said he wasn't sure if the Town's budget allotment had been decided yet, and asked if (Board Liaison) John was on the call. He said yes, and reported that the Town Board decided to reset the budget to zero. The Town will now ask that smaller line items be approved, and larger line items come before the Board for a vote to be approved, essentially. The reason is because the spending was not in

line with what the original budget called for. John said it added an extra layer of oversight, and was not intended to hamper what the Commission is doing. He asserted that the Board likes the work the Commission is involved in.

Stefan asked what this entailed. John said that the larger projects will go to the Board and items like secretary pay will remain on the voucher system. John explained that the purchase of two Historical Markers were not part of the budget of the previous year. He said the Town would like support the historical marker project, but because it wasn't in the budget, they felt the Commission needed an extra layer of oversight. John said he has to hammer out details a little more with (Town Supervisor) Fred Costello. Alba mentioned that part of the reasoning was that it had been an unusual year, and the original budget could not be maintained due to cancellations etc.

At this time, Susan rejoined the meeting. Susan asked whether the minutes had been approved. Stefan said they had been, but they could be re-opened. Susan said that there were multiple changes that had to be made, including an attribution to a property owner's quote, and Audrey's reference to a website.

Stefan moved to vote on rescinding the approval of the minutes, and reviewing them at the February meeting. Susan then asked whether the Commission would like to move the meeting of the February meeting from the 15th, President's Day, to the 22nd, the following Monday.

Susan made a motion to rescind the approval of the minutes, and Alba seconded, the vote passed 5-0, none opposed.

Stefan asked if everyone was amenable with moving the February meeting to the 22nd, George Washington's Birthday. Everyone said yes. Stefan said he did not feel a formal vote was necessary. He mentioned that many years ago, he was on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Day Board, and as part of the concession that had to be made to satisfy some legislators south of the Mason-Dixon Line, they had to combine the President's Birthday holidays in February. This effectively, Stefan mused, was to delegitimize Abraham Lincoln's birthday.

Stefan began explaining to Susan, who had missed the previous discussion, that the Board would like more oversight with the Commission's budget. As he explained, Stefan asked whether there was any money allocated for expected costs, like secretarial pay. John said he would look into exactly how it would work, but that the budget line item is set to zero. He said vouchers would still be used for costs, and that it would go through Julie Dunn (Tax Collector) and be part of an abstract and reviewed by the Town Board, as is usually the case.

Stefan then suggested he meet with the Town Board during a work session or public meeting, with the Commission's permission. He said there should be some sort of flow concerning the budget, and said that it would be only fair as grant moneys the Commission won will be coming during the course of the year. John asked if Stefan was free on February 3rd, to have a conversation with the whole board during the pre-board meeting. John said it takes place at 6:30, and is open to anyone. Audrey asked if it was through Zoom. John said it was, and that it was important that no one be meeting in person at a time like this. Stefan asked how Fred's health was. John thought he was doing ok, and mentioned it was his Birthday. Audrey confirmed this. Stefan asked for a resolution wishing the Supervisor a Happy Birthday.

2. Asbury District: Stefan said he had a very good conversation with Neil Larson. The firm is finishing their data input into CRIS (Cultural Resources Inventory System, NYS), and nearly finished with the building inventory data. He expects draft to be finished by the end of February.

3. Malden Survey: Stefan asked whether all the vouchers were approved that were sent at the end of the year. John said that Jeremy had sent a batch to him, and he forwarded to Julie. Julie had one question, but, it was answered quickly, and all were approved. Stefan said that Alba accurately described the situation earlier, concerning reallocation of the budget due to COVID, and that he would explain this to the Town Board. Stefan said that Neil was ready to work on the Malden Survey.

4. Historical Markers: Stefan recounted that Catskill Castings was able to accept the money and earmark it for the markers the Commission was working on. He said that the Commission had decided on the Brainard House, and felt that it might be worth thinking about a sign for the Hamlet, since it was at one time known as Brainard. The next step was to draw up text for the signs.

Alba and Audrey mentioned that Peigi was the most knowledgeable about the Brainard House. Alba said that the other had been Porterville. Alba thought writing about Porterville was difficult. She did find some newspaper articles describing the Hamlet, including one mentioning a quarantine due to an illness similar to chicken- or smallpox. Alba asked what census was the best to look at. Audrey said the 1915 was the best. Alba said that a Daily Freeman article described Porterville as “Forming the frazzled edge of Glasco, in the direction of Tar Hollows.” She went on to say that a stagecoach was built to bring the workers to and from the Porterville brickyards. She also mentioned that there was a famous murder, and that following what might have been another murder, the hamlet was bulldozed.

She asked Audrey for other suggestions as to where to research. Audrey thought the Hassinger scrapbook might have information. She also suggested looking through the archive of newspapers through the Saugerties Library. Alba knows that the hamlet existed in 1907, and Audrey suggested looking at the 1905 census. Alba recalled seeing the name Porterville on a map, but could not remember where she’d seen it.

Alba mentioned having plenty of material about the lead mills. Audrey asked if she’d seen any information regarding the development of an artist’s colony in that area, and she said she had. Alba asked whether the Committee still felt the lead mill shouldn’t have a sign, and Stefan proposed developing language for each and again voting on the best.

Susan asked where the signs would be placed. Alba felt the best place is at the fence at the end of Glasco Park. Just beyond that was the site. Stefan thought it would be a great amenity to the park. Alba said it would be a great place to be able to hold a ceremony as well.

Susan made a motion to accept the two locations, Porterville and Brainard, as being the locations for historic markers. It was seconded by Alba. The vote passed 5-0, none opposed.

Alba suggested waiting to speak with Peigi for more information on the Brainard House. Alba asked what the limitation on words was. Jeremy said that Catskill Castings had a price for a “standard marker,” which was 5 lines of 27 characters, but, that they also offered custom prices for additional language. Jeremy said that it was not on a road, and in a park, and thus, the reasoning for bigger letters and less text was not important. Stefan and Alba said it would be more meaningful to have a more complete description.

Jeremy mentioned that he had not correctly applied to the Pomeroy Foundation initially, and thought that as long as the research is ready, it would not be that difficult to receive a grant for a Glenerie Falls marker. Stefan asked that all research be tracked, as it might be a good idea to have an interpretive panel to go along with a ceremony.

Susan said that there was a model for something like this at a Hudson River property. Alba said that the Lighthouse had this. Jason mentioned another. Stefan thought a panel should be put on the back end of the agenda of the Commission. He mentioned that Greenways was giving a grant for interpretive panels.

5. Map and Ramble Event: Update : Stefan said that Jeremy had secured a price and voucher for the map making, and Stefan thought it was worthwhile, as the Commission proceeds, to keep in mind the themes of the Greenways Grant, as many of the projects encompass those themes for these projects.

6. Winston Farm: Update: Stefan received a telephone call from a person associated with J Mullen and Sons. The group said that they have interest in further exploring opportunities available to them through the HPC, and would like to meet. He said that there are currently no plans for the property, and that the group purchased the land knowing it was an important asset to Saugerties. Susan asked if people were doing restoration work to the buildings on site. Stefan said he believed they were doing stabilization work, but not restoration to the Department of Interior standards.

7. Cemetery Update: Audrey said that she had sent a photograph of the cemetery site to Benson Steel but had not heard back, and would follow up. She said that Ken is in the process of completing a sign, and that the local Boy Scouts are ready to help in the Spring.

Ken asked Audrey what he wanted Benson Steel to do. Audrey said there is a fence around the cemetery in disrepair. The gate is broken, and few pieces are missing along the fence. Stefan asked what the funds were going to, and Audrey thought the fence restoration is the major cost, and that Audrey expects to be holding a fundraiser of some sort for the remaining costs. Stefan asked if would be replaced with wrought iron or steel, and Audrey said probably wrought iron. Stefan mentioned that it's ok to replace material as long as it looks like the original material used, and spoke about an instance where he did this at a Montgomery Place entry gate. Audrey said that the Benson Steel people are very good at what they do, and the fence is not in any way ornate.

Alba asked if anyone had a connection with any local blacksmiths, and that it might be worth exploring finding someone that can volunteer some time to make it. She said she'd remembered some people blacksmithing at the Hurley Corn Festival. Stefan believes a person associated with Hurley may already have been tasked with volunteer work on the Rail Trail, but it was a good idea. Jeremy asked whether the church would know what the check they'd be receiving was for, and Audrey answered that she'd spoken to the church and given all the correct information to the Town office.

8. Historic Alliance of Kingston Update: Jeremy said that he hadn't had time to work anything out with them. He said he's still following them on the internet, and noticed they'd secured an authorship of a column with the *Kingston Wire*. Stefan thought it wasn't important to follow up at this time

9. Marti Randall Files: Stefan had a cordial conversation with Jennifer, but hadn't heard back recently. He thought she might be rather busy. Susan thanked Stefan.

10. Town & Village Comprehensive Plan: Stefan said that he hadn't reached out to anyone on the Village's Historic Review Board yet. Susan said she thought someone should try to attend their meetings, and someone from their Board should attend Commission's meetings, if possible. Stefan said that this was also not on his priority list in January, but would like to engage in the future.

11. Wynkoop House Update: Susan found that the owners formed a corporation to own the property, but it had been owned by Wendy Ricks and Mark Colligan. Stefan said that he had prepared a plan, ten years ago, including a full restoration. Stefan then presented the plan to the Historic Preservation Commission, and it came to Barry Benepe's attention. He said the Town, at the time, presented a lot of hurdles to the plan, and Mark ended up dropping his plans. Stefan said he and Susan should work together and contact Mark to see what the current plans are. Stefan then thought the issue was about parking.

Stefan said that the situation was similar to the plight of Clovelea. He then said that the Holiday Inn, built near the Wynkoop House, was supposed to have preserved Woodlands to the south of the hotel, according to their site plan. He remembers the plan for Wynkoop House not wanting to have the looming presence of a hotel, and part of an agreement was that Woodlands would remain. Stefan asked what would be done with this. John thought the best idea would be to bring this to the Planning Board, and the most likely scenario would be to have the Hotel replant trees that were taken out. Stefan knew of a mechanism to do this, as he'd been hired to do it in Red Hook. John said that he was the new Planning Board liaison, and asked Stefan to send him the plans. Stefan then wasn't sure if it was in the final Planning Board plans, and was worth looking into.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Lamb Center/Saugerties Arts Council: Jeremy said that he reached out to Suzanne Bennett, who he'd worked with on Shout Out Saugerties. He was not sure of her relationship to the Saugerties Arts Committee, or the relationship between Shout Out Saugerties and the Saugerties Arts Committee. John said that he was also the liaison to this group, and that Isabel Shoffer was the head of the Committee. John said that Shout Out Saugerties was still mainly focused on the month of October, while the Committee was focused on the arts year round, with a goal of finding or building a performing arts center. John thought the Town was the fiscal umbrella for Shout Out Saugerties until a recent departure to allow them to pursue more grants.

Jeremy had recommended the Lamb Center to Suzanne as a place to have an office for either of the entities about a year ago. He reached out to her recently suggesting that if the Arts Committee and Historic Preservation Commission proposed office space at the Lamb Center for both, it might encourage the Town to look into cementing a home/dedicated space for these and possibly more entities. John said it was more likely the more entities that asked. Alba asked about storage space. Jeremy said that there isn't space currently in something that is accessible, but it's no better or worse than what we currently have. He thought the first floor could be cleared to the point that there was enough space for two entities and storage.

Stefan asked if he thought the Commission should pursue the idea. Susan asked how that would happen. Stefan thought all entities should get together and formulate a proposal for the Town. Jeremy mentioned that a home would give all the entities a sense of legitimacy, and if the City of Kingston had given their Historic Commission any sense of legitimacy, the City might not be going through what is currently going through with the Kingstonian proposal. He said that he didn't understand how it was moving forward without public support. Stefan asked, jokingly, why he would like to see Woodbury Commons in Uptown Kingston. John said it was sad to see the County Legislature vote go as it did, with the Kingston legislators not in support.

Stefan said that he saw the Wynkoop House as more of a visitors center, and that we should all continue to explore creative options for the property.

2. Commission Terms for March: Terri had recently asked Jeremy what the status of the Commission terms are, because her notes had four people ending their terms in 2023, and that likely wasn't correct. He asked if anyone knew of this problem. Nobody really had.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

[At this time, there is considerable feedback, and much of what is said is not legible]

1. Town Board Liaison's Report: John said the most exciting news was that the Town was hiring an energy administrator to aggregate non-fossil fuel energy companies. It is a New York State program offered to its municipalities. It has shown to show savings for customers thus far. John thought there might be some zoning changes coming to Old Kings Highway, as a number of businesses had not been able to move in due to zoning changes, and the Town would like to fix that.

3. Town Historian's Report: Audrey had been appointed the Town Historian for 2021, and Peg Nau was her new liaison. She said they are very good friends she will be working very closely with her.

With no further business to discuss, Alba made a motion to adjourn, and Susan seconded. None were opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Russell

TOWN OF SAUGERTIES HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Supervisor - Fred Costello
Town Board Liaison - John Schoonmaker



Contact

Jeremy Russell, Secretary
(845) 399-4725
4 High St., Saugerties, NY 12477
history@saugertiesny.gov
www.saugerties.ny.us/www.saugertieshpc.net

Members

Stefan Yarabek - Chair
Susan Poretz - Vice-Chair
Alba LaFiandra
Ken Myer, Jr.
Peigi Mulligan
Jason Nelson (alternate)
Audrey Klinkenberg -
Town Historian, ex officio

Covid19 Web-Meeting, January 25th, 2021 at 5:30 pm

Agenda

Zoom info: Link - <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/9699878583>

Room ID: 969-987-8583

Phone Number to call: 646-558-8656 then dial Room ID

Call to Order

Minutes

Old Business:

1. Budget Update
2. Asbury District: Update
3. Malden Survey/District: Update
4. Historical Markers Committee: Update
5. Map and Ramble: Update
6. Winston Farm: Update
7. Cemetery: Update
8. *Historic Alliance of Kingston*: Update
9. Marti Randall files
10. Town & Village Comprehensive Plan
11. Wynkoop House

New Business:

1. Lamb Center/Saugerties Arts Council
2. Commission Terms for March

Miscellaneous Business:

1. Town Board Liaison's Report
2. Secretarial/Financial Report
3. Town Historian's Report (Other than Ramble)

Next meeting scheduled for February 15, 2021 at 5:30

Adjournment