

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission of the Town of Saugerties was held on 19 February 2008.

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

Additional Attendees: Julian Adams, New York State Historic Preservation Office; Jeremy Kane, Town of Saugerties; William and Elinor Trumbour; Marti Randall.

Barry opened the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

1. **Minutes of January 21, 2008:** Susan moved to accept the January 21, 2008 minutes. Barry seconded the motion. All unanimous.
2. **Correspondence:** Copies of the Ulster County Preservation pamphlet were distributed to commission members. Barry said that he, Michael and Marti could work on writing an article for the pamphlet.
3. **Report on Copies of 2005 Historic Resources Survey:** Leeanne said that copies of the survey could be made so that each Commission member could have one.
4. **Presentation by Julian Adams, Community Liaison Coordinator (Certified Local Government Program) with New York State Historic Preservation Office:** Julian explained that the Certified Local Government (CLG) Program is a federal program designed to offer technical assistance and grant-writing or development assistance to communities in New York. Additionally, communities with CLG status are eligible for federal funding that non-CLG communities cannot apply for. CLG status can also enhance a community's application for federal funding by conveying additional weight (via points) for CLG communities applying for funding. He explained that the Town of Saugerties Historic Preservation Law is based on Model Historic Preservation Law but is not in total compliance. The Village of Saugerties is a Certified Local Government.

Julian explained that there are two paths to designation:

- 1) Designation by the local historic preservation commission
- 2) Designation by the Town Board

Julian said that a summary of the CLG Program, in addition to the application and current newsletter, is available on the State Historic Preservation website:

<http://www.nysparks.state.ny.us/shpo/certified/index.htm>

Julian said that in order for the Town of Saugerties to be granted CLG approval, Section 4C (regarding the Designation of Landmarks) of the Local Historic Preservation Ordinance would have to be amended to remove the second clause giving power to the Town Board to disapprove or modify. He said that under the CLG law, designation powers are given either to the commission or the governing body, not both. Julian indicated that changes to Section 4 would be included in a letter to the Town Board of which he would mail a draft to the commission.

Susan asked Julian what the plusses and minuses were of CLG status. Julian answered that the plusses would be the eligibility for CLG-only state and federal funding and the importance of preservation to small communities wanting to attract resources and enhance their aesthetic value. He said that a minus was the fact that our law might be legally indefensible.

Barry said that the Commission needed to complete the draft of the guidelines in order to lay-out its intent and reassure the public as to what the Commission's role in the community would be.

Julian suggested that in addition to the guidelines the Commission might want to consider a successful public relations technique he had seen used in Athens, Georgia: a newspaper series called, "The Tour You'll Never Take" featuring pictures and descriptions of buildings that had been torn down prior to preservation efforts. He also distributed copies of "Cultural Resources Partnership Notes" to Commission members. This series is published by the National Park Service. The two volumes distributed covered the topics, "Local Preservation Reference Shelf" and "Law and the Historic Preservation Commission: What Every Member Needs to Know." Julian said that he would also mail Commission members pamphlets from other communities.

5. Report by Michael Sullivan Smith on Summary of HPC Actions:
Michael presented the Commission members with a CD-R containing site maps of all of the properties in Saugerties that the Commission had designated to date. He demonstrated how to navigate through the maps and pointed out that each property designated included a link to information relevant to the designation and the date of designation.

Susan requested that photographs of the designated properties be added to the map. Michael said that he planned to add photographs to the map.

6. Report by Michael on Kingston Commons:
Michael presented his research on the Kingston Commons - the lands commonly held when the corporation of Kingston occurred in 1688. Area land was divided, after 1804, into parcels and given in large numbered lots to people born in the Kingston Commons. Many area properties can still be identified along these divisions and all Saugerties lots come from the Kingston Commons. Michael explained that the regularity of the angles used for the original division

facilitates locating the boundaries of adjacent properties and determining the original Commons lot numbers in the area.

7. Calendar public hearings on two historic roads: Augusta Savage / Niger / buffalo and the Carriage Road at Esopus Bend. Barry suggested that this remain on the calendar until the next meeting.

8. Guidelines: Josh said that he had a rough draft done but that it is located on a computer without email. He said that he would work on retrieving it for the next meeting. Julian indicated that it was okay to borrow heavily from the Kingston guidelines because they were considered public knowledge since they were created with public funds.

9. Certificate of Appropriateness: Barry said that due to time limitations on the conference room that this item would be moved to the next meeting.

10. Other Old Business: Barry said that he heard from George Hutton, the writer of *Great Works in Ulster County*, a book about the brick making industry, that the plans of the Washburn Brickworks are shown on Sanborn fire insurance maps.

11. New Business: No new business.

A motion was made to adjourn. Barry seconded and approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:01pm.

The next Commission meeting will be held at 7 o'clock in the Town of Saugerties' Building Department Conference Room Monday, March 17, 2008.

Kate Kane