



**TOWN OF SAUGERTIES  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 MEETING**

**Present:** Commission Chair Stefan Yarabek, Commission Vice-Chair Susan Puret; Commission Members: Alba LaFiandra, Ken Myer, Jr., Peigi Mulligan, Commission Alternate Jason Nelson, Secretary Jeremy Russell

**Excused:** Town Board Liaison Paul Andreassen, Town Historian Audrey Klinkenberg

(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 meeting was called to order at 5:04 pm.

**MINUTES:** Susan asked Jeremy to clarify the Town Historian's report to better understand how Audrey works on newspapers, to clarify the technical difficulties experienced during the meeting, to remove the numbers referenced in the Historical Marker report, and to clarify the role of Lanny Walter regarding Winston Farm in the 2000s. Alba explained that the numbers referenced were sent in an e-mail that Susan sent, and Susan said she would look this up and asked to leave the reference in.

*A motion was made by Peigi Mulligan, and seconded by Alba LaFiandra, to accept the minutes of June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 as corrected. The motion was passed unanimously, 5-0, none opposed.*

## NEW BUSINESS

1) Designation Status of Local Landmarks: Jeremy explained that Michael Sullivan Smith had reported that the public, in the past, had applied for tax abatements/exemptions on locally designated landmarks, after the Town had passed a law allowing for this in 2007, and had been turned away. Simultaneously, Jeremy had been speaking to officials with the State about what makes local landmark designations official. Linda Mackey, from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) said, effectively, that the best way to determine what has been officially designated is to see what has been filed with Ulster County. After asking what had been filed with the County, he reported that the County Clerk sent him four filings: Snyder Farm, Winston Farm, a second Winston Farm filing (a filing with findings) and Augusta Savage Road.

Jeremy then explained that both the laws and designations all have to be filed. He said he'd found out that no owner in any other municipality in the County had successfully received a tax-exemption, so the problem wasn't necessarily specific to Saugerties. Tracey Williams from the Ulster County Real Property Department was able to assist with the filing of the laws with the County.

Jeremy went further and said that he's able to file all of the designations, as they have already been voted and approved, and it would merely take a letter referencing all the applicable information. He said that there were two options concerning designation filings with the County: You can file them miscellaneous, which is free, and you can file them so that they're cross-referenced with deeds, which costs approximately \$50.

Stefan began to make a motion to have Jeremy take the two properties that are currently filed and have them cross-referenced. There was some further discussion on the motion. Peigi asked for a complete list of all the properties. Jason asked how many there were, and Jeremy said close to 20, but he wasn't exactly sure. There was some confusion as to whether Stefan meant the two current properties or all properties, and there was discussion about filing all the properties at once or in a piecemeal fashion because of the costs. Peigi also asked whether it was possible to file these properties as miscellaneous and then go back and file them cross-referenced, and directed Jeremy to ensure that could be done.

***Stefan made a motion, seconded by Alba, to have the properties currently filed with the County, Snyder Farm and Winston Farm, cross-referenced to the corresponding deeds. The motion passed, 5-0, none opposed.***

***Peigi made a motion, seconded by Alba, to have letters written to the property owners of the designated properties. The motion passed, 5-0, none opposed.***

2) Winston Farm: Stefan asked if it was a good idea to send a letter welcoming the new owners of the Winston Farm property, and said he would he send a draft to the Commission before sending.

***Susan made a motion, seconded by Peigi, to have a letter sent, by Stefan, on the Commission's behalf, to the new owners of the Winston Farm property. The motion passed, 5-0, none opposed.***

3) Historic Property Tax Abatement Program: This had previously been discussed in the first item on the agenda.

4) Historic Alliance of Kingston (and Ulster County): Through Chester Hartwell, who is a member of the Friends of Historic Saugerties and the D&H Canal Historical Society, Jeremy was invited to be part of the Historic Alliance of Kingston, which is a new group consisting of various historical enterprises, mostly based in Kingston. He reported that they'd been meeting with the goal to create historically-themed events and broaden the reach of their individual organizations. Their very first project was to build a half-virtual, half-realistic historically-themed scavenger hunt. This particular project incorporated a number of similar goals the HPC had, such as the building of a historical resources virtual map.

Stefan encouraged the members to review the website of the Historic Alliance and that the Commission would take up the matter at the September meeting. Susan asked if there was a charge. Jeremy said that there was not, and didn't believe it was going to be an entity that charged for membership.

5) Miscellaneous: Susan asked about the Mega link that Jeremy had provided in an e-mail earlier in the month. Jeremy explained that Mega was a cloud-service he'd found to upload and store the collection of material that the Commission had. It is a free service and allows for those with access to upload files as well.

## OLD BUSINESS

1) Asbury District Update: Stefan asked what stage Neil Larson was on regarding the Asbury District. Jeremy said that he was waiting on an official vote to proceed with the nomination portion of the project. Peigi asked who it was that had been working as Neil's contact person in Ulster County. Jeremy said Marissa Marvelli. Peigi mentioned that she believed she'd worked on several Hudson Valley Vernacular Architecture projects, including several Osterhout houses. Susan asked if the Town would be reimbursed for this work from one of the grants. Jeremy said that about \$4,800 would be reimbursed, and the total cost would be \$6,000, so net, we would be paying \$1,200 for the district nomination work.

***Stefan made a motion, seconded by Alba, to proceed with the nomination and sign the contract regarding the same, to be completed by Neil's company, of the Asbury District to the State and Federal Register. The motion passed, 4-0, with Susan abstaining.***

2) Historical Markers Update: Jeremy stated that the Pomeroy Foundation did not award any grants for the four landmarks he'd applied for or for the four that Marjorie Block and the Village of Saugerties had applied for. Due to the library being closed and a shortage of time, he was unable to find primary sources for the nomination. One site, the Brainard House, had different sources claiming different people lived there, and Jeremy thought the Foundation likely wouldn't commit to something that wasn't definitive. Peigi had spoken to Jeremy earlier in the month and mentioned she likely had the information necessary for this particular location.

Susan asked if the Commission could apply in future years, and if so, how many per year. Jeremy answered five. He said he'd had the idea that the Commission propose a number of different locations and prepare nominations ahead of time, and have residents vote on which markers to apply for. He thought it might generate interest in local history. Alba and Susan commented that it sounded like a good idea. Jeremy said that initially, his idea was for the Commission to propose markers, and then have people vote on a few a year. Submissions could be made by the public for the Commission to research. Susan thought it might difficult to logistically carry out a vote. Alba asked how the vote to paint the color of the bridge was implemented. Peigi thought it was on Facebook, or at least partially on Facebook. Alba said that Facebook doesn't represent the entirety of the population.

Alba thought it might be problematic if the public was involved, because many of the sites are just more well-known, whereas others, there has been very little written about. She suggested having a vote on one site, and having the Commission decide on one. Peigi mentioned that a particular Facebook post showed that most responding did not know that there was once a passenger train in Saugerties.

Stefan recommended coming up with possible sites, conducting the research, and presenting the information to people through the newspaper, having a vote, and then applying for the grants. Alba asked if the *Saugerties Times* was still being published. Peigi replied in the affirmative, but it was now published under a new name, *Hudson Valley One*, which condensed *Saugerties Times*, *Woodstock Times*, *Kingston Times* and *New Paltz Times*. Jeremy mentioned that he'd read a publisher's note indicating the owners intended to go back to the original production of four separate newspapers, but surmised it wasn't likely to happen. He also mentioned that it was not available at all the locations it had previously been available at.

Stefan proposed a sub-committee be created to work on this type of project. Alba volunteered, and said she'd really like Audrey's help and hopes she'll join.

3) Map and Ramble Update: Jeremy has sought bids for a map, but has had trouble describing a vision for a map to the artists. Jeremy said he thought he should be applying for a Greenways Grant, but Stefan advised him to

proceed first with the mapmaking and the standing Hudson River Valley National Heritage Grant, which is tied to Greenways. Peigi thought the map was going to look something like the Stone House Tour Maps. Peigi thought it at least would be a good starting point. Susan said there were five different maps Myles created, and it's possible to be merged in some way. Peigi and Stefan simultaneously recognized that Myles had created a master map. Stefan thought it might be in his flat files, and Susan thought she might have galleys.

Susan asked if Jeremy had followed up with letters to groups that had written letters of support for the Ramble. He said he'd sent letters out to five organizations.

## MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

2) Secretarial/Financial Report: Jeremy bought a book of stamps, but had not created a voucher yet. Everything remained the same as it had since the last meeting, although, he said that he'd sent a voucher to Paul but forgotten the receipts, and then sent Paul the voucher with receipts a week later. Both vouchers were filed, and Jeremy returned the second check he received, as it was the same voucher.

*[Stefan's connection was lost at this point]*

Susan asked if there were any updates on the website. Jeremy had created the header, and it was up at saugertieshpc.net. He asked Ken if he'd finished the historical marker photography. Ken said he was about half-done, and that he could not find two markers that should exist. The first, "Settlers Captured" was on 212 going to Woodstock. Peigi thought it was still there, and possibly hidden by brush. Ken couldn't remember the other. Ken had to move some tree branches to get a photo of one near the proposed Thruway exit. Peigi mentioned there were two in Glasco, one at the four corners, and one at Shultis Corners.

Jeremy mentioned that History Alliance of Kingston and the Town of Marlborough Library had created virtual maps, and that he now recognized it was much easier than he'd previously thought. Susan thought Michael had created a map with many historic properties. She asked if it were reduced in size, digitally, would it then work as a digital map. Jeremy wasn't sure, but remembers the font being very small and difficult to read. Peigi reminded Jeremy that Ken Walton, with Hudson Valley Vernacular Architecture (now Hudson-Mohawk Vernacular Architecture) had created a digital map with descriptions of certain historical properties. Ken wondered if you could re-create text, if that were the case. Jeremy definitely thought so, and wanted to confer with Michael and Chester.

***A motion was made by Susan, seconded by Peigi, carried, to enter Executive Session to discuss pending possible litigation.***

*[Paul connected to the stream during Executive Session]*

***A motion was made by Susan, seconded by Peigi to exit Executive Session, carried, .***

1) Town Board Liaison's Report: Paul had nothing to report.

3) Town Historian's Report (Other than Ramble): Audrey was absent

*A motion was made by Peigi, seconded by Alba, to adjourn the meeting, at 6:26 pm, so carried.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeremy Russell  
Secretary, Town of Saugerties Historic Preservation Commission

# TOWN OF SAUGERTIES HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Supervisor - Fred Costello  
Town Board Liaison - Paul Andreasson

## Contact

Jeremy Russell, Secretary  
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## 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, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 5:00 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

Approval of June 15<sup>th</sup> Minutes.

### New Business:

1. Designation Status of Local Landmarks
2. Winston Farm
3. Historic Property Tax Abatement Program
4. Historic Alliance of Kingston (and Ulster County)
5. Miscellaneous

### Old Business:

1. Asbury District Update
2. Historical Markers Update
3. Map and Ramble Update

### Miscellaneous Business:

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

**Next meeting scheduled for September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020**

**Adjournment**

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Supervisor - Fred Costello  
Town Board Liaison - Paul Andreassen

## Contact

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## Financial Report 2020

Beginning Budget - \$15,000.00

2-24-20: Voucher for Secretary Pay and Conference Costs - \$940.74

Remaining budget = \$14,059.26

3-10-20: Voucher for Neil Larson, Asbury Nomination Project - \$1,500.00

Remaining budget = \$12,559.26

5-1-20: Jeremy Russell & Ken Meyer Jr. returned conference booking funds + \$592.73

Remaining budget = \$13,151.99

6-5-20: Voucher for 2 bundles of paper and 1 notebook - \$12.77

6-5-20: Voucher for 3 acid-free flat file boxes, Hollinger Metal Edge (online) - \$66.91

6-5-20: Voucher for Secretary pay, February through Beginning June - \$322.50

Remaining budget = \$12,749.81