

Historic Preservation Commission
Monday, July 16, 2012
Building Department Conference Room
7 pm
Minutes

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

Town Board Liaison: Jimmy Bruno

Guests: Barbara and Fred Gentile

Meeting called to order by the chair, Josh Randall at 7:05 pm.

1. Minutes of the June 18, 2012 meeting. Moved by Barry, seconded Susan, to approve the minutes. Josh, aye; Barry, aye; Susan, aye; Michael, aye; Unanimous.

2. Name Change request. Barbara Gentile asked that the Old Grower House, 80 Churchland Road (17.4-1-40.100) be renamed. The current name comes from the owner who occupied the house in or about 1960 or 1961. Mrs. Gentile described how her father purchased the stone house in approximately 1936 or 1937 from possibly a Vedder. It is on about 3 acres and at the time had no water or electric. Her father spent about a year or so fixing it, including installing water and electricity and in June of 1938, he married and the newly-weds moved into the house. In 1947 her father built a garage making the cement blocks by hand using a mold. In 1950 he added an extension to the house. Mrs. Gentile brought many photographs of the house and has many more at home. Parenthetically, the Gentiles own the First Brink House on Old Kings Highway which was included in the Historic Preservation Commission's first Stone House tour.

The consensus of the Commission was that more research needed to be done before we could rename and that a member of the Commission would get back to the Gentiles before the August meeting to decide the path to follow.

2a. Not on the agenda, but Fred Gentile brought up the fact that he had discovered an old cemetery. That information was going to be transmitted to the appropriate person(s) for follow-up.

3. Historic Houses near Thruway. (see attached article). Susan shared "State boosts historic sites along Thruway," an article from the March 10, 2012 Freeman (p B4). After some discussion about how the Commission could provide input to the Governor's

Historic Corridor Task Force (co-chaired by Harold Holzer), it was decided that Josh would contact Mr. Holzer to either set up a meeting or have a discussion about including Saugerties' historic buildings in the Path through History initiative.

4. Fawn's District. Josh indicated that he had contacted several residents of the proposed Fawn's District and none were interested. Barry volunteered to contact others.

5. Historic Writings. Michael reported that he had not received a response from Town Clerk Lisa Stanley regarding his request for a safe haven for the files of the Commission. Both Jimmy Bruno and Michael will follow-up on this.

5a. Update on Michael's research. Michael indicated that he had just completed a history of Henry Barclay and Saugerties during that time. Barclay was a catalyst for the economic development of Saugerties and Michael used him as a "case History."

6. Old Timers Day. Logistics of the day (August 5) were discussed. Michael and Josh will man the table (* which should be under the tent).

7. Old Business. None

8. New Business.

a. Barry asked that the A. York House (28.2-5-20), 47 Potter Hill Road, be considered for designation. The building is a stone house built in 1696 by a Longendyke and currently owned by Lucette Ronsdorf.

b. Susan distributed copies of Kaatskill Life, summer 2012, which contained her article on Flatbush.

9. Adjourn Barry moved to adjourn, Michael seconded.

Meeting adjourned 8:45 pm

Susan Puretz

Secretary pro tem

Resolution Dated June 18, 2012

Whereas:

Over the past several years significant new information on Saugerties history has been brought to light through the activities of the Commission, its programs and its individual members. More is in the process of being developed. For the first time, it is possible to assemble a verifiable narrative on the curious aspects of our history to support campaigns for tourism and also to articulate an intriguing story of the positive atmosphere for economic development that is the innovative bedrock of our community's unique heritage.

Whereas:

Since 2004, when the cultural assets survey was created, the capabilities of electronic media have made access to an unprecedented range of material possible. This has coincided with the creation of the Historic Preservation Commission and its requirements for accurate information. Because we have a mature capability now for applying this level of information it is important that this material be made understandable to the citizens of Saugerties so that we may all be capable of representing our heritage to the best benefit.

Whereas:

The Town Board acting upon the motion presented below will make the credible experience, expertise and accumulated documents of the Commission useful for publicity campaigns, education and proper treatment of historic facts in the press.

Be it resolved that:

The HPC requests that the Town keep, physically and electronically, all historic materials that are relevant to the legal duties of the Town of Saugerties Historic Preservation Commission under the auspices of the Town Clerk using the volunteer positions of the Town Historian and Commission for organization, maintenance and application.

It is the intent of this motion that the Town and Village separately and jointly seek grant support for a preservation program which would allow outreach services to schools, libraries and community groups in support of Saugerties unique history and historical assets and for the creation of the facilities and purchase of equipment and services needed for it.

The HPC asks that the Town Board act on the motion approved at the HPC meeting of June 18, 2012.