

**Town of Saugerties
Historic Preservation Commission
Minutes of the October 16, 2017 meeting**

Present: Stefan Yarabek, Chairman; Susan Puretz, Vice-Chairwoman; Commission members Myles Putman, Secretary; Barry Benepe and Michael Sullivan Smith; Town Historian Audrey Klinkenberg
Absent: Town Board Liaison Bill Schirmer

The Commission met in the conference room adjacent to the Building Department offices at Town Hall. Meeting was called to order by Chairman Yarabek at 5:08 pm.

Approval of minutes of September 18, 2017 Commission meeting.

Motion by Susan Puretz to accept the minutes as submitted, seconded by Michael Sullivan Smith; approved as follows: Barry Benepe - abstain; Susan Puretz - aye; Myles Putman - aye; Michael Sullivan Smith - aye; Stefan Yarabek - aye (vote of 4-0-1 in favor of approval.)

Old Business.

1. Stone House Legacy memorialization resolution. Stefan had a phone conversation with Linda Mackey of SHPO, in following up to the SHPO e-mail from September. She was of the opinion that if our local regulations did not do not specifically provide for "thematic" designations, then such designation may be legally questionable. The concept is intriguing to SHPO and would be unique in New York State. She will be searching on-line for thematic designations done in other states.

Barry asked if this designation would require listings of the individual properties. Stefan said that the resolution could incorporate a reference to the 2005 resource study and other relevant documents. Michael and Myles have developed separate listings of the stone houses.

Tasks: Michael and Myles will combine their lists to create a version for Stefan. A map should be produced.

Michael said this would be the time to revisit the house plaque idea. This could be done in lieu of a paper certificate. These plaques would honor the house and would be for the landowner's benefit.

2. 2018 Budget. Stefan circulated copies of a revised proposed 2018 budget, and stated that he directed Bill Schirmer to put in for at least the same amount as 2017 as part of the preliminary budget submission deadline in September. Bill had informed the Commission that the Town Board is still interested in having the commission submit a 2018 budget.

There was discussion over the proposed amount in the 2018 Town Budget to be allocated under the heading of "Town Historian". Audrey shared with the Commission her concerns over this listing.

Commission members were in agreement with the proposed 2018 budget as presented by

Stefan this evening. Stefan will be in contact with Bill on this.

Motion by Susan Poretz that the Preliminary Proposed 2018 budget for the Historic Preservation Commission be submitted to the Town Board;
Seconded by Barry Benepe; Approved unanimously

3. Asbury District - Overview. Stefan mentioned the district proposal to Linda at SHPO. SHPO has offered their assistance.

There was discussion over how to fill out the designation form for a district - one form with attachments for each lot or separate forms for each lot.

Audrey mentioned that Asbury is named after Francis Asbury, the first American bishop in the Methodist Church. The church pre-dated the creation of the Town. Michael mentioned that Asbury was where the big ox roast took place for the troops returning from the battle of Saratoga.

A letter should be drafted and sent to each landowner along with a copy of the overview text and the study area map.

Myles mentioned that the study area boundary and the properties included within it represent a "preliminary" stage of analysis and the Commission should examine the sites in detail to determine which of these properties contribute to the sense of a "cohesive historic area of the Town."

Motion by Susan Poretz to direct the Chairman of the Historic Preservation Commission to draft a cover letter to be circulated to the owners of property within the Asbury district study area, along with a copy of the current overview summary and map;
Seconded by Michael Sullivan Smith; Approved unanimously

4. Finalize Osterhoudt designation. Myles discussed the basis for the revisions, inclusive of current references to the Town Code. Commission members were in agreement.

Motion by Susan Poretz to direct the Secretary of the Historic Preservation Commission to revise the Osterhoudt designation letter as per the draft circulated, to include a current date and to circulate copies of the same to the Town Clerk, Building Department, and Town Assessor, along with Linda Mackey at the New York State Historic Preservation Office;
Seconded by Michael Sullivan Smith; Approved unanimously

5. Bus Tour. Susan has sent out an e-mail to over 20 people, casting a "wide net" to get a planning group started. A meeting date has been set for October 24. As for financing, the tour will be supported by ticket sales and also funds in the Commission's house tour account.

Many logistical concerns must be addressed, such as selecting a date for the tour, and determination of what a "break even" point is, and number of buses that will be needed. Susan envisions leasing school buses from Lezette, who are local. There would be a bus trip made every hour on the tour loop. Most if not all of the sites would be "drive-bys".

Michael asked that consideration be given to having a stop at about three houses, just to allow people to stretch their legs and walk upon a historic site where they can examine the premises more closely. Susan asked Michael to mention this on the 24th.

The tour would not involve any house interiors.

Susan asked if the Commission would adopt a motion of support for the tour and the planning process. Commission members were in agreement.

Motion by Susan Puretz to express the support of the Historic Preservation Commission for a 2018 Historic Home Bus Tour in Saugerties and the extensive planning work necessary to undertake such an event;

Seconded by Michael Sullivan Smith; Approved unanimously

New Business.

1. Sebring House (McVinish) Site Landmark Designation. This has been initiated by the landowner (McVinish). Stefan will follow up with the owner and direct him to the on-line nomination forms.
2. NYSOPRHP/CLG Audit. SHPO needs copies of the Commission's minutes from 2014 and 2015. Audrey said these should be on line, but she will look into this. SHPO Contact is Linda Mackey.

Miscellaneous Business.

1. Town Historian Business. Audrey said that the Eagle Scout project for cleaning up the cemetery near the Plattekill Reformed Church is complete and looks beautiful. The Ulster County Historical Society is considering a house tour along the Route 209 corridor in 2018. Audrey also went on a tour of the County Archives in Kingston.
2. House Plaques. Susan believes that the house plaque idea is worth pursuing and that Michael should investigate further the logistics and costs of having these plaques made.

Motion by Susan Puretz to appoint Michael Sullivan Smith as a committee to investigate the details and costs to create historic site plaques;

Seconded by Stephan Yarabek; Approved unanimously

3. Corrections to Town Website. Myles took care of this earlier today, e-mailing the memo to Lisa and also to Town webmaster Mike Campbell.
4. Posting of Minutes on Town Website. Audrey mentioned that there have been no minutes of the Commission posted on the Town Website since June 2016. Myles should speak with Mike Campbell.
5. Esopus Presentation. Myles briefly mentioned his presentation for the Town of Esopus comprehensive plan "Forum" on September 28, and shared some of the slides showing the

history of the Town.

6. Kaaterskill Solar (Cypress Creek Renewables). Reputedly some activity is taking place with this project, although they are not on the Planning Board agenda for this month.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2017.

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Myles Putman; seconded by Stefan Yarabek.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Myles Putman
Secretary