

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission of the Town of Saugerties was held on 5 May 2008.

Present: Josh Randall; Myles Putman; Michael Sullivan Smith; Susan Puretz; Leeanne Thornton and Kate Kane, Secretary.

Josh opened the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

1. **Minutes of April 7, 2008:** Following a brief discussion by Commission members, Michael made a motion to accept the minutes. Myles seconded. All unanimous.
2. **September Meeting Date:** Susan said that the Commission's regular meeting date of the first Monday of the month would fall on the Labor Day holiday in September. Following discussion, Commission members agreed to tentatively reschedule the September meeting to Tuesday September 2nd, 2008.
3. **Historic Roads Designations: Augusta Savage / Niger / Buffalo and the Carriage Road at Esopus Bend.** Myles handed out copies of his research into the history of the Niger Road corridor, titled, "Niger Road Notes" to Commission members. Myles suggested that the Town archives might be a good source to help identify the original road corridor since some confusion regarding its exact location exists in historic maps. He noted that the corridor is also referred to by several different names (including Buffalo Road, Buffalo Drive, Niger Road, Nigger Road, etc.) in various documents but that some documents do not include the names of roads in their labeling. Josh said that he thought that the Augusta Savage Road was misaligned in its present configuration and that the zoning map shows that the Town is maintaining a section of private drive as public road.

Susan asked Josh if he had the tax identification information for the property owners along the corridor. Josh gave Susan print-outs listing the information, which includes section block and lot descriptions.

Michael asked if the Commission members were familiar with the Vermont law prohibiting decommission of historic roads.

Josh suggested holding on further action regarding the Augusta Savage / Niger Road in light of route redirection / uncertainty presented by Myles in his research. Susan asked if the Town Board had tabled action on this issue. Leeanne said that the Town Board asked Bernie to review the road direction / alignment but that further action might have been tabled.

4. **Certificate of Appropriateness / Designation Letters:** Susan presented draft copies of the Certificate of Appropriateness and Designation letters to Commission members to review. Michael suggested a change to the designation

letter to remove the phrasing indicating that the owner of the property had nominated it for designation. He said that this change would be important since someone other than the owner of an historic property could nominate it for designation. The Commission agreed that two versions of this letter might be needed: one that could be sent to the owner of an historic property if it were not his/her initiative to designate the property and one that could be sent if it were the property owner who had nominated the property for historic designation.

7. Old Business: Susan asked if the action by the Town to seek Certified Local Government status would affect Quadricentennial activities, specifically access to grants or funding. Leeanne said that the Town Attorney needed to re-write the original law (incorporating comments and following review by its original drafter) and then bring the rewritten law to the Town Board to review and vote on its approval. Michael added that it was important for the Town to seek funds from local tourism offices or the I ♥ New York (New York State Tourism Board).

8. New Business: Myles said that the Town of Esopus published a book in 1979 titled, "The Town of Esopus Story" and that a similar effort by the Town and Village of Saugerties might be a good initiative for the 2011 anniversary of the Town. Commission members agreed that this might be a good project following Certified Local Government status for the Town.

Myles made a motion to adjourn. Michael seconded. All unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:14pm.

The next Commission meeting will be held at 7 o'clock in the Town of Saugerties' Building Department Conference Room Monday, June 2, 2008.

Kate Kane