

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission of the Town of Saugerties was held on 17 March 2008.

Present: Barry Benepe; Michael Sullivan Smith; Susan Puretz; Barry and Kate Kane, Secretary.

Barry opened the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

1. Minutes of February 19, 2008: Michael said that he had some corrections to the minutes. Corrections were made to the minutes and new copies were emailed to all commission members.

2. Correspondence: Barry distributed copies of the letter that Julian Adams, Community Liaison Coordinator with New York State Historic Preservation Office, sent to him.

Barry said that he had difficulty with the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) item mentioned in the letter. Barry said that he felt that Julian may be under the (false) impression that property owners would appeal to the ZBA for possible designation. Barry said that he hoped that the ZBA item could be removed.

Barry mentioned that Julian's letter offered two options to the Town Board: 1) the Historic Preservation Commission makes recommendations for designations and the Town Board can then modify the recommendation or, 2) the local ordinance could be changed to make the Historic Preservation Commission advisory-only, leaving the Town to make designations.

Susan said that she felt that the letter failed to convey the benefits of the Certified Local Government program and focused only on legal issues regarding the Local Ordinance. Susan suggested that the Commission request a follow-up letter from Julian which would include the amendments that the Commission had in addition to listing the benefits of the Certified Local Government program.

Barry added that the "appropriate process" item on page three (3) also needed clarification. Barry said that a request for a follow-up letter should come from him and that the key items that should be addressed in the letter are: what are the benefits of the Certified Government Program and what essential changes must be made in order for the Town to qualify as a Certified Local Government?

Barry said that it will be the Commission's responsibility to review the Model Law and make the necessary changes. Susan asked Barry to request copies of the Model Law from Julian. Michael said that he would be willing to make the necessary changes to the Commission's law when known.

3. Alice Cross, President of Ulster County Historic Society: Barry said that Alice Cross had asked that the Historic Preservation Commission write

something for inclusion in a newsletter. Michael said that he would be willing to write something up regarding the designation activity of the Commission. Michael said that Marti (Randall) might be willing to write something on the *Winston Farm*.

4. Historic Roads Designations: Augusta Savage / Niger / Buffalo and the Carriage Road at Esopus Bend. Michael said that the Commission might want to delay action on this item until he had the chance to complete his research on the Kingston Commons Lot numbers. He said that, when this information was complete, that the maps would show the historic roads and provide a provenance for documentation needed for designation activities. Barry agreed that this information would be helpful before proceeding.

5. Guidelines: Barry asked the other Commission members whether they had received the items that Josh Randall sent shortly before the meeting. Michael and Susan had not checked email. Barry said that it looked like what was sent was information that had already been distributed. Michael said that he had begun to re-do the Kingston pamphlet on his own and that he would send the draft copy of his work to all Commission members for review.

Barry added that he was still hoping to get copies of the 2005 Inventory of Historic Homes for each member of the Commission and that he hoped that an introduction could be added to the document which would describe the value of historic preservation.

Susan asked if the guidelines would be developed with Certified Local Government money. Barry answered that they would, and that possibly Preservation League money could also be used for their creation.

6. Certificate of Appropriateness: Susan asked that the Commission review the text on two documents that she had been working on: "Historic Preservation: How it Works" and the "Certificate of Appropriateness". Barry said that the "Historic Preservation" document needed to include text indicating that an applicant needed to have an information discussion with a Town Board member to outline proposed work on a designated property and to become familiar with the process. Michael said that this was worded well in Kingston's pamphlet.

Barry said that it was important to include information in the Certificate of Appropriateness document stating that an applicant needs to come to the Town Hall to get an application for the Certificate of Appropriateness and then bring the completed application to the Commission to review.

Susan made a motion to accept the proposed forms. Michael seconded. All unanimous. Barry said that the Commission could review changes at the next meeting.

7. **Other Old Business:** Barry asked that Michael include, on the map that he had previously distributed, information regarding other actions taken on the properties that the Commission had designated – such as identifying those *properties which are also on the state and national historic register.*

8. **New Business:** Michael said that someone on the Town Board should take the lead on the upcoming quadricentennial of Henry Hudson's voyage, which will be celebrated in 2009.

Michael added that the Historic Preservation Commission needed its own mailbox at the Town Hall.

Michael made a motion to adjourn. Barry seconded. All unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 9:35pm.

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

Kate Kane

