

Minutes

The regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission of the Town of Saugerties was held April 25, 2005.

Present: Barry Benepe, Josh Randall, Michael Sullivan Smith, William H. Trumbour, Susan Walker, Karlyn Elia

Additional Attendees: Eliner Trumbour, Marti Randall, Peter Sinclair, Kandy Harris, Jeanne Goldberg, Ken Goldberg

Guest: Myles Putnam

Josh passed out tax information on the Winston Farm property.

Barry announced that the Cultural Resources Survey had been presented to the Town Board during the previous week. Copies are to go to the Commission, the NYS Preservation League, the Saugerties Library, and the Town Clerk

Myles did a presentation on the evolution of the early roads of Saugerties. Barry asked of anyone knew about Fawns Road; he saw it on a railroad map. Myles had no knowledge of the road. Bill asked what the oldest roads in Saugerties were besides Old King's Highway. Myles said that the earliest would have been Indian trails; Malden Turnpike dates from 1830; roads to the quarries would have been early. Barry said that the earliest map showing roads is the Tilson and Brink map of 1853 (a copy used to be at the Stone Ridge Library). Southier's map of the 1700s to early 1800s shows the Hudson Valley. A copy of French's map (1858) is at the Ulster County Historical Society. Barry said that Dave Baker and Dick Duncan believe that a road passed Augusta Savage's house, forded the Beaverkill, ~~then went east toward the river.~~ Myles said that in 1812, 20 road districts were set up in Saugerties by the town; #3 went from Kingston to the Schoonmaker property. The districts were described using properties.

passed west of Wynkoop House

Barry asked the Commission members if we should designate Niger Road.

Karlyn, referring to the previous meeting, regarding the name of Sterling Road being changed to Tower Road, made a motion that the Commission petition the Town Board to ask that it be consulted if any other such name change should be contemplated in the future. The motion was seconded and was carried unanimously.

Corrections were added to the March Minutes, and the Minutes were adopted as amended.

Michael agreed to download aerial maps and superimpose them on a DOT map.

Josh said that we can't designate all of Winston Farm because not all the parcels are contiguous properties. Barry said that Niger Road is almost entirely within Winston

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Farm. Josh said that in County Books, Buffalo Road from Harry Wells Road up to its juncture with Augusta Savage Road (Niger Rd.) is called an "improved paper street." Barry said that if we are going to designate, we need language as to why it's historic. Josh and Bill said that the Commission must know the status of the road (look for deed references for a full description of the road) through Shaller's land. Michael proposed that the Commission take all the roads on DeBeer's Atlas as functional and designate them as historic: Wilhelm Road, Niger Road to Buffalo Road to 32, Echo Hill Road (Fish Creek to Veteran), Old Powder Mill Road (Churchland Rd. to Fish Creek kRd.), Kate Yeager Extension (south to Stoll Rd.), and Farm to market Road (Glasco to Lake Katrine). Barry asked if the Commission should consider a package of roads rather than one.

Barry read from the Ordinance; the Commission can designate, but the Ordinance doesn't spell out how designation can encumber a private owner.

Peter asked why the Commission wants to designate Winston Farm; what makes it historic? Michael said that the eastern fields next to Rt. 32 were part of the Meales and Hays Patent; early on, they were deeded to Wynkoop and became part of Wynkoop farm. A lot of the land was deeded early; some to an Indian, John Minqua, as a freeholder. It is one of the earliest (1712) documented pieces of land. Barry read an excerpt from a NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation description (8/9/1994) referring to photographs of a cemetery with Wynkoop headstones. Marti mentioned the aquifer underneath and said the farm used to house mules used on the construction of the Ashokan Reservoir. Karlyn mentioned the archeology. Barry said that the Commission needs a body of text describing its historical significance. General discussion followed about how Winston Farm is in the heart of the town. The question was asked, how do we define an historic landscape? Karlyn referred to an article that Vern Benjamin wrote on the farm in the Feb. 2, 1989, issue of the *Woodstock Times* ("A patchwork of Dreams").

There was discussion about the Malden headstones. Barry said that State law says that grave stones cannot be moved without permission of a court, and then, only to a public cemetery. Karlyn, Barry, Josh, and Bill went to Malden to look at the stones and talked to the property owner.

Barry said that he would like to get a paid secretary next year to maintain records and files, etc., for the Commission.

The next Commission meeting will be ^{May 27} June 26, 2005.

The meeting was adjourned.

Susan B. Walker