



**TOWN OF SAUGERTIES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 16th, 2019 MEETING**

Present: Commission Chair Stefan Yarabek, Vice-Chair Susan Puretz; Commission Members Alba LaFiandra, Peigi Mulligan, Ken Myer, Jr., Commission Alternate Jason Nelson, Town Historian Audrey Klinkenberg, Town Board Liaison Paul Andreasson, Town Board Liaison John Schoonmaker, Secretary Jeremy Russell.

Excused: none

(Minutes appear in chronological order. Numbering of items refer to the agenda for the meeting, which is attached)

The Commission met in the conference room adjacent to the Building Department offices of the Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by Chair Stefan Yarabek at 5:04 pm.

Stefan proposing blitzing through the meeting as December is both an eventful and transitional period.

Stefan asks if there are any questions or comments on the November minutes. With no answer, Stefan asks if a motion to approve the minutes of November can be made. Alba makes a motion, and Susan seconds the motion. Passed by a vote of 5-0, none opposed.

Stefan welcomes guests to the Commission Meeting, although there are none present.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1) 2020 Grant Application for HPC Storage Space/Status in Town Hall - It was hoped that Vernon Benjamin could attend the meeting, but Jeremy did not call Vernon until the day of the meeting, and he was not available. He will try to follow up with Vernon for an update/report on the usage of the space in the Town Hall on the second floor. Stefan recommends forming a subcommittee to work with the grant-writing team working on the second-floor utilization grant. Peigi recalled that during the meeting with (Town Supervisor) Fred Costello that a different grant-writer might be working on the grant. Stefan will try to follow up with Mr. Costello for information. Stefan thinks the sub-committee can be formed at the January meeting. Jeremy informed the Commission that the particular grant's application deadline was January 14th or 15th.

Ken asked who else for the town writes grants. Paul mentioned that many people do, or could. He said that he took a course in grant-writing and forgot most of the material once he walked out the door. *(This writer believes this was said in jest as to indicate the difficulties of successful grant-writing)* Paul recalled that

grants tend to need to be perfectly drawn, and that they will always be competitive. It's similar to college admissions. Ken mentioned that his workplace sees a lot of grant-writing.

Stefan mentions that his understanding is that the Historic Preservation Commission does have access to the second floor storage room, and will try to confirm that by the January meeting.

- 2) Deed of Gift Status - Susan stated that Paul had received word from Sarah (Brancatella) of the Association of Towns understanding that the Town Historian can accept gifts. Peigi reviewed that a particular gift had to be changed to the HPC because of worries of future appointments as Town Historian, and then (Town Attorney) John Greco stating that the Town Board can accept for the Commission, but the Commission can't accept for the Town. The information Paul received reaffirmed the work that the Commission had already known. It still leaves the specific case in a quandary.

Audrey stated that when the Town Historian accepts gifts, they are accepting for the Town, not for the Town Historian. Peigi said that the HPC would be in the same position. Audrey asked the Town Clerk what the depository is for historic materials, and was told it was the Kiersted House (The Saugerties Historical Society). It was opined by everyone that there is probably no other place. Alba mentioned that there is no humidity control in that building.

Susan said that since the emergency won't change, we should delay talk on this particular deed. Peigi suggested that it should be conveyed to any current parties looking to donate that all gifts that are accepted by the Commission, Historian, or Town Board will become property of the Town. There is a consensus of agreement.

(According to the agenda, there is no item of Old Business #3)

- 4) Stone House Memorializing Resolution Ramble Event/Grant Update - Stefan received grant information from Greenways. February 7th is the deadline for their grant. Stefan will e-mail these to the group. Audrey will likely need help in filling this out. Stefan believes there are two grants worth pursuing - the first is a "Community Grant," defined as being for Natural & Cultural Resource Protection, Economic Development, Public Access, Regional Planning, Heritage, and Environmental Education. Also, another grant is the "Heritage Development Grant." It contains a lower threshold of funding, but is easier to receive. Stefan read a few of the qualifications necessary for the grant, and believed all were applicable to the Ramble project. In the end, by his estimate, there were at least 60 of 100 points according to the scoring of the grant. Audrey said that there is tourism budget within the Town that is worth looking at. Peigi mentioned that working with the Village and having an event within the Village would enable the scoring of more points. Audrey has spoken to the Chamber of Commerce Chair (Mark Smith) about events in the Village.

Stefan conjectured that this was a really important building block with Greenways. They are very happy that Saugerties will be involved in holding a Ramble, and Saugerties will receive new exposure as being a municipality that values its history and heritage. Audrey talked about planning of this event, and would like to get together with Susan about seeking volunteers and handling responsibilities. Paul asked if one can get the map online. Audrey wasn't sure. Stefan recommended talking about getting something online, as Greenways and the State Heritage websites would reference on their website, and would also receive more points for the grant.

Paul asked about the bike path not being in Ulster County, and Stefan explained the various reasons as to why this was bypassed.

- 7) Budget and Finance - Stefan believes the Town of Saugerties really sees the value in the work the Historic Preservation Commission is doing, and has been rewarded by the Town Board with a workable budget. Stefan anticipates wonderful things, and wanted to thank the Commission for the work they've done, and the Board for the confidence shown in the Commission.
- 5) Asbury District Larson Proposal - Stefan has contacted Neil Larson, who has worked with the Commission in the past. Stefan asked (someone with the Town) whether this type of project has to go out for RFP (Request for Proposal). Stefan hopes it won't be necessary, because Neil has already started on this project, and has always charged modest prices. Neil, in talking to Stefan, mentioned that the State Historic Preservation Office, at the time, unanimously believed that the designation of this district was well worth the time and effort. Neil will check in with SHPO again, and estimates the cost of the project in total will be around \$7,000. Stefan proposes capping the cost at around \$7,500.00 barring any glaring emergencies.

Alba agreed that leaving a project like this to a professional is merited, especially considering the difficulty of using the CRIS (Cultural Resource Inventory System) of SHPO. Paul asked whether Neil has worked for SHPO. Stefan said that he had - Neil had, two years ago, converted the most recent survey into the database of the system. Paul asked if Neil could develop a map as part of this project. Peigi added that a Stone House Map could be useful, and complimentary to this district map, for use during the Ramble. Stefan will ask Greenways about a web consultant. Neil has told Stefan that CLG (Certified Local Government) may have grant money available as well.

*Peigi makes a motion for Stefan to proceed, on behalf of the Commission, with Neil Larson to perform the aforementioned goals as Stefan has introduced them. Susan seconds this motion. **The resolution passed, 5-0, with none opposed.***

- 6) Snyder House & Winston Farm Update - The Snyder house is for sale. Barry Benepe has been actively searching for trusts for public land. Audrey mentioned that the family was unsure as to what exactly is designated. Peigi was quoted in the newspaper as saying that the entire Snyder Farm received a local designation. Jeremy stated that there was no indication of this on the State CRIS system. Jeremy couldn't find this information in Barry's material. John asked if this problem occurred before with the Winston Farm designation. Audrey believed the information would likely be in Josh Randall's collection of material. Stefan asked if Jeremy could find out about this.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Rich Davis's Presentation of the 19 Hamlets of Saugerties - Susan mentioned that a presentation of the Friends of Historic Saugerties by Rich Davis was very informatively done, and that he continues working on the project. She asked whether there was some type of venue that the Commission could give to Rich to show his work. Peigi suggested divvying up the Ramble into separate hamlets.

Paul suggested linking the PowerPoint slides of the presentation to a brochure. It's mentioned that Chester Hartwell also has audio. Audrey has a copy of the presentation. Jeremy said he could get the PowerPoint on the Town website. A discussion broke down about different people that may present different talks for the

Friends of Historic Saugerties presentations hamlets. Peigi mentioned that in her research, there were some hamlets that just didn't have much significance.

- 2) Town Board Liaison 2020 - At this time, John revealed he would not be seeking to be co-liaison for 2020, and that only one liaison would be needed, and that Paul would fit that bill better. John said he's learned a lot and is appreciative, but his work schedule just doesn't work with the Commission's schedule. Stefan thanked him for his work and assured him that he could still remain on the mailing list. John is happy to accept.

(Stefan exits, Susan will close meeting as Chair)

At this point of the meeting, likely in anticipation of the end of the meeting and end of the year and commencement of a new year, several conversations take place at once. There are some various points that can be heard -

- There are several hundred pictures from Rich's powerpoint. There might be some copyright issues.
- Audrey wished everyone a Merry Christmas. Peigi said "Bon Natale!"
- Alba asked about a line item possible discrepancy. It was not believed to be
- Jeremy asked about a line item about \$7,500.00 for Tourism. It was explained by John and Paul that it was earmarked towards marketing and funding some of the festivals, and is directed through the Tourism Committee.
- John and Audrey have been eating a lot of holiday sweets.

TOWN HISTORIAN'S REPORT

Audrey has been working on a book or work entitled "News of Saugerties," entries in various local papers. She believes it's ready to print. A scrapbook was donated to her recently. It was a collection of material of Morris Rosenblum, a local attorney that practiced from the 1940s - 2000s, from his first several years of work in the area. It was assembled by Irene Spatz. This scrapbook is indexed, and almost ready for public viewing.

The last note of the report is that Audrey knew of a partial gravestone that was in someone's attic. The name was "Aunt Sarah Newkirk Myers" *sic* who happens to be Ken Myer, Jr's aunt. The rest of the gravestone, and burial site, was near the Christian Myer home. Both have since been reunited and moved to be repaired. In the springtime, Ken and Audrey anticipate having the newly unified and repaired gravestone replaced in its original location, with a ceremony, perhaps. Peigi suggested the Commission try to attend.

Audrey then mentioned that the Monday Club would be showing the Esopus Creek documentary on January 27th, 2020, at about 1:30. The public is welcome and invited.

It was then decided that next month's meeting would be moved from January 20th, 2020, to January 27th, 2020.

Jeremy estimated that of the 2019 Commission budget of \$1500.00, it will have spent \$1,137.94. He wasn't sure if it rolled over. There was a collective "No." There was a discussion as to what the remainder could be spent on. Jeremy also announced the Commission are paid members of the Preservation League of NY and the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions. The NAPC will have online access for all members, but is not available at the moment. Jeremy asked if anyone would like a print version of their publication. Peigi recommended having one be property of the Commission. Susan asked if they could be brought to the Commission.

At this point, discussion returned to the remaining \$362.06 of the year's budget. Some of the ideas were:

- Put money towards having space, perhaps by giving it to the Town.
- Transferred to the checking account that was used for raised moneys from the Stone House Tour.
- Let it go back into the general fund.
- Allow the Secretary to purchase supplies.
- Make Copies of Volume 1 of the 2004/2005 Survey

No final decision was made, and the general concurrence was that it might be best to let it roll back to the general fund, barring any last minute necessities.

Paul, in working on the IDA, said that found that there were similar situations, regarding the Neil Larson project, in which an RFP was not needed. Projects under \$10,000 are generally not problematic.

Before the commencement of the meeting, Paul wanted to wish everyone Happy Holidays. Jeremy seconded that. Audrey thirded.

Jeremy then asked if Paul could forward the e-mail from the Association of Towns.

Paul asked Audrey the timeframe that the Village of Saugerties was named "Ulster." Audrey gave a lesson on Henry Barclay's time in Saugerties, the naming of Ulster in 1831 and reversion back to Saugerties in 1853. It was asked when the first appearance of Saugerties came about, and Audrey told of the 1683 reference of the "Indians up in Saugers aren't peaceful." She does explain there's some myth to some of the naming. John then noted the difficulties in tracing his family's name, despite its prominence, back more than a few generations. A number of people had different ideas as to where information would be.

At this point, with no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Alba, and seconded by Peigi, to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeremy Russell
Secretary of the Town of Saugerties Historic Preservation Commission

TOWN OF SAUGERTIES

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Town Hall, 4 High Street
Saugerties, New York 12477
Tel: (845) 246-2800
Fax: (845)247-0355
www.saugerties.ny.us
Fred Costello, Town Supervisor
Town Board Liaisons to the HPC
Paul Andreassen
John Schoonmaker



Commissioners: Steran
Yarabek, Chair Susan
Puretz, Vice-Chair Barry
Benebe
Alba LaFiandra
Peigi Mulligan
Ken Myers Jr. (alternate)
Audrey Klinkenberg,
Town Historian, ex officio

Regular Meeting, December 15, 2019 at 5 pm

Agenda

Call to Order

Approval of November 18, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Welcome to our guests

Old Business:

1. 2020 Grant application for HPC storage space/status of in Town Hall
- 2, Deed of Gift Status
4. Stone House Memorializing Resolution Ramble Event/Grant Update
5. Asbury District Larson Proposal
6. Snyder House & Winston Farm Update
7. Budget and Finance
8. Other Old Business New Business:
 1. New Business

Miscellaneous Business

Town Historian's report
Town Board Liaison's report
Other announcements

Next meeting scheduled for January 27, 2020*

Normal Date is Dr. Martin Luther King Day

Adjournment