

Historic Preservation Commission
March 17, 2014
Building Department Conference Room

Present: Michael Sullivan Smith, Barry Benepe, Stephen Shafter, Susan Puretz.

Absent: Josh Randall.

Town Board Liaison: Bill Schirmer.

Secretary: Audrey Klinkenberg, Town Historian, Deputy County Historian.

The meeting was called to order by the chair, Michael at 7:08, p. m.

It was moved by Stephen and seconded by Barry that the minutes of the meeting of January 20, 2014 were approved as presented. Michael, aye; Susan, aye; Barry, aye; Stephen, aye.

Unanimous approval.

I. Election:

Michael said that as this is the March meeting, it is the election meeting. He also stated that he was unwilling to run for office. Michael stated that Barry would be a good chair for the Commission. Susan nominated Barry for Chairman, Stephen seconded the motion. Michael, aye; Susan, aye; Stephen, aye. Unanimous approval. Congratulations Barry!

Michael nominated Stephen for Vice Chair, seconded by Susan. Michael, aye; Susan, aye; Barry, aye. Unanimous approval.

II. Updates:

a. The historian reported on the two properties which are on the 2005 survey and which had interested buyers.

b. The roof on Clovelea is part of the designated property, and any demolition will have to come before the Village Historic Review Board.

c. SHPO found some issues on their audit of the village and as a result, a letter was sent requesting changes to bring the village into conformity with the CLG law. A time line was given and SHPO stated that if the problems were not resolved they would recommend that the village no longer be a certified local government designated village. There are ongoing discussions between the Historic Village Review Board and the village government to resolve the issues.

d. Bryce Marden is the possible owner of the long dock.

III. Ruins:

a. Discussion flowed from Barry's email on a displayed ruin in Kingston, to wit, should the Commission have an active approach to our one true designated ruin (Turnpike house). The city of Kingston owns the ruin on 'Frog Alley' and is repairing it, the Turnpike House is privately owned.

Dialogue included, among other things, cleanup by Town as possibly hazardous, and volunteer stabilization by Commission.

Note: The owner (Howard Price) of the Veteran school house at one time was going to fix up the school house building. Further, there has been no answer to the letter sent regarding the request to move the Turnpike House stone to Greene Co. Discussion on the history of the Turnpike House ensued.

Barry asked who would/should maintain the property in the future? Barry said it would be nice to have the trees removed to open up the view.

IV. Into the future:

Discussion: In order to get more people involved in the work of the Commission, the question was raised as to whether we should create a policy under Section 4 to have official, ongoing adjunct and auxiliary committees for such activities as we have had for the Tour? Susan asked about ad hoc committees the Commission might have. Michael responded with committee examples including for: the house tour, publications, surveys, and, to follow-up on the previous discussion on ruins, for preserving the Turnpike House as a ruin. Mr. Schirmer discussed the open meeting law and the use of committees to gather data. Susan recommended that any new ad hoc committee not include more than two members of the Commission so as not to violate the open meeting law.

V. Barry's agenda item: Discussion on Barry's item from last month's meeting, which was not held, on organizing a gathering of all owners of National Register eligible and designated properties was tabled until the next meeting on April 21.

VI. Guidelines: The guidelines still need to be completed. Barry asked whether the guidelines are applicable and useable by both the town and village. It was agreed that the guidelines are for both. An applicant can ask at the building department for a copy of the guidelines. Susan asked if a copy of the guidelines could be prepared for each member of the Commission. It was agreed that this could be done. Susan asked that either the town mail the guidelines, or that Commission members be told when they would be available to pick up at Town Hall. It was agreed.

VII. Stephen's designation discussions with owners of the Katsbaan Parsonage house: Stephen asked if he should invite Helen and Bob Smith, the owners, to a meeting. It was agreed to do this.

VIII. New business:

a. The Commission was pleased to learn that Josh Randall was reappointed by the Town Board March 5, 2014 to a four year term to expire in March, 2018.

b. Susan announced that the tour committee is going to have a preliminary meeting in April.

c. The Commission thanked Michael Sullivan Smith for his service as Chairman.

Motion to adjourn made by Michael, seconded by Barry. Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50.

Audrey Klinkenberg
Secretary