



**TOWN OF SAUGERTIES  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE MARCH 15, 2021 MEETING**

**Present:** Commission Chair Stefan Yarabek, Commission Vice-Chair Susan Puretz, Commission Members: Ken Myer, Jr., Commission Alternate Jason Nelson, Town Board Liaison John Schoonmaker, Town Board Member Peg Nau, Town Historian Audrey Klinkenberg, Member of Public Chester Hartwell, Secretary Jeremy Russell.

**Excused:** Commission Member Alba LaFiandra, Commission Member Peigi Mulligan

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

The Commission met virtually, on the platform Zoom (zoom.us), ID #969-987-8583.

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The meeting was called to order at 5:33 PM

**MINUTES:** The minutes from the February meeting were not ready, and it was planned to discuss them at the following meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Asbury District Update: Stefan had spoken with Neil Larson, who had promised to forward his draft of the nomination for the State and National Register within the month. Stefan said that it could then be used for a local designation.

2. Malden Survey/District Update: John Ham has started his survey work. It was announced that he needed a letter of introduction. Stefan then explained that consultants typically go out and visit and photograph historic houses or buildings in the area and people tend not to know what they're there for. Stefan also gave John Ham a pamphlet regarding tax breaks for renovation work, which, he said, was well-received.

Stefan further explained that the American Legion had attempted to retrieve cannons from the Poultney Bigelow Park in Malden, and it was met with resistance. The Historic Preservation Commission became proactive with the park, and Stefan started attending the town's Recreation Committee meetings. The result, he said, was that the park was re-elevated in stature within the town, and the American Legion fully embraced the reintroduction of ceremonies at the park in Malden. Stefan said that at the next meeting, all attending should expect great progress on the work being done in Malden.

3. Historic Markers Committee: Peigi, who was unable to attend, had e-mailed Susan. Susan read the e-mail, in which she asked if it were too late to consider a historical marker for Snyder's Farm. Her thoughts were that it would keep the new owners in the historic preservation loop, and, the Brainard marker didn't seem to have a

location with any visibility. Susan thought it was a practical idea. Stefan thought it was a good idea because it's such a heavily traveled idea. A motion was made by Susan to make the change, and seconded by Ken. Before a vote was taken, Susan asked if it was ok with the historical marker committee. Jeremy said that Alba wasn't present. Stefan said that we could table it. Audrey mentioned that nothing had been cemented with Catskill Castings yet, in terms of material, and that it should be perfectly ok to make the change. Stefan said he didn't think there was a deadline to submit literature. Jeremy confirmed this.

Audrey asked if the sign on the County line was put up yet. Ken said it was not. The motion, it was decided, would be tabled.

4. Map and Ramble Update: Jeremy said he was about 80% done with the data entry, and that the next step would be to choose the historical sites with Audrey to profile on the map. They decided to meet over Zoom one Sunday. Audrey said she had some Ramble ideas, but that there were many more to choose from. One idea she had was a Thomas Pennington sculpture, that may be at St. John's Church or St. Mary's Church.

Audrey explained that the Ramble Event was to take place last year, but alas, it was cancelled. Greenways, the organization that awarded a grant for the event and the greater State "Ramble" organization, cancelled all events last year. She said that included: the Katsbaan Church, Saugerties Lighthouse, the Firemen's Museum, Patrick Wadden and Arm-of-the-Sea, the American Legion, and some others. Stefan then said he'd recently attended a Greenway meeting, where he announced that he thought the Saugerties HPC could go forward with its project. Greenway might not be actively promoting it, but they applauded Saugerties for showing strength to move forward. Audrey joked that Joe Biden had said that everyone would be vaccinated by July 1, so it will be perfect timing.

5. Trinity Episcopal Church Cemetery Update: Audrey described the project of fixing up the gravesite of Henry Barclay and his wife Catherine, and the cemetery surrounding it. The stone has already been improved so that it's legible. The fence will be repaired. Benson Steel would work with Audrey and draw up an invoice. They thought, in their conversation, that replacing the resting rails (tops of the fence posts) would be the hardest part. Chester held up a picture of what this would look like.

Ken asked how many were needed. Audrey didn't know. Ken said he might be able to make them. Audrey then said that Ken had made a sign, and it was out for anodizing. The last step is the re-sodding of the area with the local Boy Scouts. Stefan said that he worked with a company that could provide sod.

Audrey said she had not met the new rector yet. It was mentioned that Stephen Shafer would be able to help. Audrey then said that she had spoken to Stephen Shafer, and he'd said that a check had not been received by the church yet. Stefan asked Jeremy if a check had been sent. Audrey didn't know what happened, so, it may not be an issue. They would follow up.

On the Barclay dedication and the Ramble:

Audrey spoke to Vernon Benjamin about it, and Vernon thought that she should invite the Ulster County Historian, the governor, perhaps even the President. Susan asked if it was an event that could take place during the Ramble. Jeremy said he was thinking the same thing. Stefan thought they should entertain the thought. Finally, Jeremy said that, in his estimation, if the Ramble and Barclay dedication were held at the same time, President Joseph Biden could be convinced to attend.

6. Wynkoop House & Lamb Center Update: Susan mailed a letter just that day to the owners of the Wynkoop House, and referred to the idea behind the letter as “crazy.” Stefan recounted having met and worked with the current owners, with the reminder that they had the very same intentions when they bought the property many years ago. The moral being, presumably, that the idea was not as crazy as it may have appeared. Stefan thanked Susan for her efforts.

Attention turned to the Lamb Center. Jeremy said that he and Joan Lamb (majority owner of “The Lamb Center”) met with Robert Langdon, when he visited, accompanied by Suzanne Bennett. Jeremy said the meeting went well, and there was mutual interest in using the building as an office, gallery and town accommodation.

Jeremy thought the best path forward was to clear out the first floor for use. He said he thought that there needed to be separation between legal files and publicly accessible material. He then recommended having the prominent members of the Historic Preservation Commission, Lamb Center, History Whisperers, etc., get together and decide the ownership of some of the artifacts there. He was concerned for the well-being of the files getting lost or mixed together with the context lost.

Stefan mentioned that the Town has had a difficult time following through with a dedicated space for the Commission that had been promised. He thought the Commission should grab their archives and bring them back to Town Hall. He said if space does become available in the Lamb center, the HPC archives could always be brought back. Audrey mentioned having left some items at the Lamb Center herself. Susan asked Jeremy to confirm, that the Commission would not be using the Lamb Center to archive its material. Jeremy said he thought the odds of being able to work there in some capacity have increased, as opposed to decreased, and that the next step for something this is to address the current state of the building. Stefan said it sounded as if it was not wheelchair accessible. Jeremy said he thought that the legal files should be placed on the third floor. Stefan said that he’ll keep pursuing the development of a stronger relationship with the Lamb Center.

7. Staples Brickyard/Bristol Beach Update: Stefan recapped how (Councilwoman) Leanne Thornton had asked Stefan to help the town apply for grants for historic signage. He asked Jeremy if there were any opportunities, and Jeremy mentioned a new, special round of grants from Greenways, the CLG program through SHPO, and the Preservation League of NY. Stefan said that he and Jeremy should meet and work on developing some grant proposals. Stefan said the park will become a significant part of the community.

8. Esopus Creek Update: Stefan said that Stephen Shafer had forwarded an e-mail highlighting the need for people to contact the Department of Environmental Protection. Stefan indicated that Michael Sullivan Smith had followed up with an e-mail that said it is a critical environmental area that is protected historically. John mentioned that although there had already been a public hearing, public comments were still being accepted until June. Susan asked Stefan to draft a letter on the Commission’s behalf. John said he was pretty sure Fred (Costello) and Vernon (Benjamin) were also submitting letters. He commented that no one was happy, and every speaker was against the release of the turbid waters. John thought there should be some progress made on this front.

## NEW BUSINESS:

1. CLG Survey: Stefan briefed the room about an e-mail he’d been sent on a survey the CLG conducts with the municipalities. Stefan said that the CLG was required to submit the completed surveys to the State in order for

them to get funding. He'd circulated the e-mail to the Town, and did not get a response. He wondered aloud as to how he should proceed. He reminded everyone that the Commission would like to pursue more grants with SHPO, and this non-response to the CLG survey would not look responsible. Stefan explained that the survey was based on the federal census and the federal apportionment of money. Stefan said he'd follow up with John and promised to forward the survey to him.

2. Daisy Hamlet: Audrey asked to table this, as Peigi was doing some research and needed to be here to speak on it. Susan mentioned that Peigi had sent an e-mail before the meeting, apologizing for not getting together with Alba and not researching the Daisy Hamlet. Ken mentioned having sent some research he'd done to Peigi to help her get started. Stefan agreed to table the matter.

3. Other (Added to Agenda in-meeting): Stefan said he'd received an e-mail from Michael Campbell, the Village and Town website coordinator. The e-mail was about the Saugerties Historical Society having asked to not portray the Kiersted House in the logo for the Historical Preservation Commission. Jeremy had responded and said that he'd made a logo some months ago. Stefan thought it was better and moved to use it as the HPC Logo. Ken said he would second it. Audrey said that she recognized the painting of Malden, but not the two houses in the logo. Audrey asked where the pictures had come from, Jeremy thought the pictures had come from the preparations of one of the Stone House Tour pamphlets, and thus, were not photos of a building in the Village. Stefan, thinking out loud, said that the Commission might want to consider Opus 40 in the logo. Audrey added any of the other protected properties would fit as well. It was decided to have current designated properties in the logo. Stefan recounted that SHPO had conducted a study showing that Saugerties was the municipality with the most Stone Houses, and that the Town had recognized it by passing a proclamation.

#### MISCELLANEOUS:

Town Liaison's Report: John said that the Police Reform Commission would be presenting their final report, and the Town would likely pass their recommendations, as required by law. He then reported there would be a WebEx report on the CCA program that the Town is considering. He explained that the CCA was the Community Choice Aggregation program in which municipalities join to search for a new electric provider that is committed to 100% renewable energy. He said the Town was not committed to anything, the Village was not a part of the coalition, and that the cost of electricity should remain around the same price. Susan asked what the difference in savings would be in relation to a contract Susan has with Common Energy. John said he couldn't answer, but noted that the Town still has the opportunity to reject the final product, and that he was pretty sure one had to opt in to actually use the new electric provider.

Stefan asked Peg if she had anything to add, and she thanked Stefan for informing her on the issues as the agenda was discussed.

Town Historian's Report: Audrey said she'd spoken about everything and had nothing more to add.

Secretarial Report: Jeremy said he'd come across an advertisement reading newspapers from the 1860s about a History Book written by John Hasbrouck. He asked if anyone had read that book or heard about the book. No one was sure. Audrey recommended the Excelsior Program through the NYS Public Library system. Audrey said she'd come across some material in the catalog of the Kingston Senate House through this program, and that Jeremy should expect to find many local resources.

Jeremy asked whether the funicular railroad on Alba's property still existed, as Barry Benepe was very interested. Audrey thought it wasn't working anymore. Chester thought that her family had picked up the rails and stacked them at the top of the hill. (*Memo – It was learned during the May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting that the railroad tracks are still in place on the property.*)

Audrey mentioned that she'd received an e-mail from Vernon Benjamin concerning the status of a property in the Village Historic District.

Jeremy made minor announcements: He sent a voucher to Stephan recently. He said he took a stab at the CLG Interim Progress Report, and forwarded to Stefan. He said there was a Main Street Now Conference taking place in April. There was a National Alliance of Preservation Commissions seminar in April as well.

Stefan asked if there were any other questions, and with none, thanked everyone for their efforts and he would see them again in April.

***With no further business to discuss, Susan made a motion and Ken seconded to close the meeting. There were none opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 pm.***

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Russell

# TOWN OF SAUGERTIES HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Supervisor - Fred Costello

## Members

Town Board Liaison – John Schoonmaker

## Contact

Jeremy Russell, Secretary

(845) 399-4725

4 High St., Saugerties, NY 12477

[www.saugerties.ny.us/www.saugertieshpc.net](http://www.saugerties.ny.us/www.saugertieshpc.net)



Susan Poretz - Vice-Chair

Stefan Yarabek - Chair

Alba LaFiandra

Ken Myer, Jr.

Peigi Mulligan

Jason Nelson (alternate) [history@saugertiesny.gov](mailto:history@saugertiesny.gov)

Audrey Klinkenberg -

Town Historian, ex officio

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## Covid19 Web-Meeting, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 5:30 pm

### Agenda

**Zoom info:** Link – <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/9699878583>

Room ID: 969-987-8583

Phone Number to call: 646-558-8656 then dial Room ID

**\*Please note: The order of items on the Agenda are subject to changes as the meeting progresses to accommodate guests and schedules**

Welcome to Guests

Call to Order

## Minutes

## Old Business:

1. Asbury District: Update
2. Malden Survey/District: Update
3. Historical Markers Committee: Update
4. Map and Ramble: Update
5. Cemetery: Update
6. Wynkoop House and Lamb Center: Update
7. Staples Brickyard/Bristol Beach: Update
8. Esopus Creek: Update

## New Business:

1. CLG Survey Request
2. Daisy Hamlet (Information Request)

## Miscellaneous Business:

1. Town Board Liaison's Report
2. Town Historian's Report
3. Secretarial Report

**Next meeting scheduled for April 19, 2021 at 5:30 – via Zoom**

**Adjournment**

March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Minutes of the Historic Preservation Commission of the Town of Saugerties