

MINUTES

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

BUILDING DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE ROOM

OCTOBER 18, 2010

6:30 p.m.

Present: Josh Randall, Michael Sullivan Smith, Sue Puretz, Barry Benepe, Myles Putman.

Ex officio: Audrey Klinkenberg, Town Historian

Liaison: Jimmy Bruno, Town Board Member

Village of Saugerties Historic Review Board: Richard Frisbie, Michael Sullivan Smith

Esopus Bend Conservancy: Spider Barbour

Mary O'Donnell, from Esopus Bend Conservancy came at 7:15 pm

Meeting called to order by the chair, Josh Randall at 6:35 pm

1. Minutes of September 19th meeting were accepted as presented.
MOVED Puretz/Smith. Josh, aye; Susan, aye; Michael, aye.

2. Resume Joint Public Hearing with Village Historic Review Board on Carriage Road, Esopus Bend Conservancy/Nature Center

Spider Barbour spoke at the hearing. He thinks that the designation is a good thing for the town, the village and the conservancy. His questions were:

What sort of historic designation makes sense? There are land owner responsibilities under with different types of designations. Josh responded that if any improvement or update on the road is necessary, there must be a certificate of appropriateness from the village and the town, jointly, on file. Spider is also concerned about maintaining a 12 foot right of way. His description of the road included that it is "part of one of our hiking

trails, which was part of a farm road.” Michael showed Spider where the road is located on a map. Josh noted that this road would be the first road designated as a historic landmark in New York State. John Wood purchased the land in 1705 from the Trustees of the Commonality of Kingston. Spider would like to have a specific location for the road, which Michael states is on the ridge back and goes down toward the creek. Spider also asked what the preserve could do for education and interpretation, including signage. Discussion ensued with the consensus that signage would be good to explain the history of the road. Richard thought that this group could designate what we believe to be the road, which might be more fully delineated in the future. Josh stated that we can make the designation based on the maps the Commission has, which are very good. A Survey map would also show the road. Spider wrapped up his testimony by responding to a question from Mary O’Donnell, stating that this ‘road’ is not really a road, but rather a ‘historic road’, with ties to the history of both the town and village of Saugerties. Mary O’Donnell asked whether this historic road was ever part of the highway maintenance system? The answer was that it was not. It was used as a public road, but was not a municipality maintained road. The Carriage Road would be a historic protected landmark which could not ever be changed once the designation is made. Mary is concerned about a future possibility of handicapped accessibility to the Carriage Road. She would not want to come back to the Commission to get a certificate of appropriateness for an improvement to make the road handicapped accessible. Richard stated that the wording should include approval of future normal maintenance of the road and consideration of any anticipated or planned activity to make the Carriage Road handicapped accessible. Michael stated that the designation should be the course of the road, rather than the footprint of the road. The original Commons deed stated that the road was twelve feet wide, the road, as it appears today, might not be that wide.

Myles Putman asked to be excused and left the meeting at 7:55 pm.

Mary O’Donnell asked whether the town and village law on designation are

the same. Richard said that the laws are different. Section 6 of the town ordinance does not appear in the village law. All of the clauses in both ordinances apply.

MOTION to close the public hearing BENEPE/SMITH Josh, aye; Barry, aye; Susan, aye; Michael, aye. Motion carried.

The public hearing closed at 8:03 pm.

3. Discussion Post Public Hearing on Testimony and/or Vote on Designation
MOTION to designate The Carriage Road as a historic landmark, with specific verbiage in the letter, to be decided. BENEPE/FRISBIE Josh, aye; Barry, aye; Susan, aye; Michael, aye; Richard aye. Motion carried.
4. Discussion regarding interim report for CLG Grant. This report is due on November 1, 2010. Michael Sullivan Smith has emailed a substantive draft of the proposed publication for Commission and Review Board comment. Michael has the paperwork for the interim report and will submit same.
5. Discussion regarding role and/or funding of The Saugerties Historical Society. Susan stated that the Saugerties Historical Society is receiving \$10,000 per year while the Historic Preservation Commission receives minimal budgetary assistance. Josh mentioned that the archives of The Saugerties Historical Society are not easily available to the public. Josh asked Jimmy to get some information about what the Historical Society is supposed to do for the money they receive.
6. Preliminary discussion regarding Historic Survey properties on the Real Estate market. Longdock on the end of Ferry St. has an offer. 48 Oak Road off Route 32 is on the market. The home is very nice. 100 Ralph Vedder Road is on the market and has been for 3 years. 1113 Church Road is on the market. 1 Washburn Farm Road on 32 South is on the market. 266 Old Route 32, near Finger Road, turn near Briar's Pet and Feed Store, is on the market, with two barns dating to the 1800's. 815-817 Blue Mt. Road, built in the side of a hill is on the market. 1228 Blue Mt. Road, is on the market. These properties are stone houses.

7. Old Business:

- A. The property of the Dominican Sisters will have some trails opened by Scenic Hudson. On November 6 there will be an opportunity to go to the property to cut brush.
- B. Josh sent an email to Phillips NA giving them permission to connect the water lines at the Myer Homestead on Old Kings Highway. Commission members were polled prior to the transmission.
- C. Audrey reported that the two cemeteries Old Finger Cemetery, also called the Old Plattekill Cemetery and the Flatbush Community Cemetery are in the process of being cleaned up. The Flatbush Community Cemetery is an Eagle Scout project, the Old Plattekill Cemetery will be done by a girl scout troop.
- D. Michael reported that the Veteran Schoolhouse property had been cleared, however, it was overgrown again; and that the owner Mr. Price was looking into obtaining the Jeremiah Russell Turnpike House from the owners/relatives; in the meantime the house is deteriorating further.
- E. The Commission requests information regarding the meetings of the Bicentennial Committee. Any member with knowledge of a meeting should notify the other members.

8. New Business:

- A. Susan Puretz reported that Michael Sullivan Smith is giving a course on Saugerties History and Josh and Marti Randall will be presenting a course in the spring on the Winston Farm, both for Life Spring. It was noted that the Commission is responsible for the education of the community and that these courses can definitely be considered as fulfilling that educational role.
- B. To celebrate next year's Bicentennial of the town, Susan suggests that persons might grow a beard. Perhaps the Commission could suggest this to the public.

C. Josh will be going to a council meeting at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, to discuss the designation of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church to occur on June 3, 2011.

D. The budget request for 2011 was made, all members were notified. Greg responded that the request would be discussed in due time.

9. Motion to Adjourn at 9:08.

Audrey Klinkenberg
Secretary