

## **Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission of the Town of Saugerties was held November 28, 2005.

**Present:** Barry Benepe, Josh Randall, Michael Sullivan Smith, William H. Trumpbour, Susan Walker, Leeanne Thornton

**Additional Attendees:** Eliner Trumpbour, Eila Kokkinen, Marti Randall, Lanny Walter, Ralph A. Marallo, Jr., Pat and Victor Feola, Scott Harrison, Dan and Susan Weeks, Kathleen Hanzl, George Nieffer, Elizabeth Reece

Barry opened the meeting.

### **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meetings of September 26 and October 24, 2005, were read and approved. (The minutes of the October meeting stated that the meeting was opened and closed immediately so that the members could attend the League of Women Voters Candidates Forum being held in the next room.)

### **Introduction of Elizabeth Reece, candidate for secretary**

Barry introduced Elizabeth Reece, candidate for secretary of the Commission. Elizabeth introduced herself briefly and made copies of her resume available.

### **Correspondence**

Barry provided a copy of a letter from Tania G. Werbizky, Director of Technical and Grant Programs of the Preservation League of New York State, to Greg Helmsmoortel, Town Supervisor, to the Commission for its files. The letter thanks Greg for sending the Preservation League a copy of the Cultural Resources Survey and states that the terms of the 2003 Preserve New York Grant Program were met. It praised the work done, calling the project "one of the most thorough and detailed survey documents completed with Preserve New York grant assistance."

Barry also submitted a copy of a letter from George W. Redder, Town Attorney, in which he confirmed that the Commission could hold subsequent continuations of a properly noticed initial hearing without having to send out additional public notices for the subsequent continuation hearings.

Finally, Barry provided a copy of his letter to Assemblyman John J. McEneny regarding McEneny's formation of the NY Preserves Legislative Working Group.

## **Continuation of Public Hearing on Consideration of Designation of Winston and Snyder Farms**

After reading aloud the criteria for designation of landmarks and historic districts, as listed in the Town of Saugerties Historic Preservation Ordinance, Marti Randall gave a PowerPoint presentation, with Josh Randall, of material that she, Josh, and Karlyn had researched and compiled to make a case showing that the Winston Farm met the criteria for such designation. She encapsulated the history of the site, starting with the Wynkoop deed of 1719, and carried it up to the end of the Winston family ownership in the 1950s, the Dump fight, and Woodstock '94. She discussed the 22 archeological sites identified (before the Dump fight) on some of the property, the Rio Alto Stock Farm, the presence of 3 historic cemeteries, Winston's Saugerties Farm, and the life and accomplishments of James Overton Winston. Of particular importance was his engineering of the Ashokan Reservoir, built between 1907 and 1917. Some of the information presented was supplied by the Guernsey Breeder's Association (Winston was nationally renowned as a breeder of champion Guernseys; the U.S. Bureau of Dairy Industry bought one of his bulls.) Nigger/Niger/Augusta Savage Road was discussed, along with the 22-room bluestone mansion that Winston had Gerard Betz build for him. <sup>Everett H Wynkoop House</sup> In summary, she listed some of the factors that render the site eligible for landmark designation: the Wynkoops farmed it for many generations; Augusta Savage Road was long known as the route from Route 32 to the Blue Mountain; it is the site of Saugerties's only Revolutionary War fort; it was a working farm until 1940, and the fields are still hayed today; it is the site of historic bluestone quarries; and it is an important view shed.

The Guernsey Breeders' Association (in Reedsville, Ohio) sent Marti, Josh, and Karlyn a copy of a panoramic picture of the farm taken in 1921 and published as a 5-page foldout in their journal as an exemplary farm.

Barry read from an email that he had received from Stephen A. Yarabek, a landscape architect, in which he described the Winston Farm as "a cultural landscape of extreme importance." Dan Weeks, a member of the public present, pointed out that the Winston Farm is at the foot of Overlook Mountain. Another member of the public suggested that the Department of Environmental Protection and the New York Historical Society should be interested in the site. Josh said that described view sheds of the Hudson River include Overlook and the Blue Mountains; the Winston Farm is a part of this.

Barry asked for a motion to keep the record open for additional testimony for another month, as the Schallers and their attorneys were not present; Josh made the motion, which was seconded and approved. Barry asked Marti if she would give the Commission a copy of her written presentation, but she said it was her property, copyrighted by her, and that she would not make any copies.

The commission unanimously voted to hold the next meeting on December 19 instead of the 26<sup>th</sup> because of the holidays.

The meeting was adjourned.  
Susan B. Walker