

**Town of Saugerties
Historic Preservation Commission
Minutes of the June 19, 2017 meeting**

Present: Barry Benepe, Susan Puretz, Vice-Chair, Myles Putman, Michael Sullivan Smith, Stefan Yarabek, Chairman; and Bill Schirmer, Town Board Liaison (arrived 5:35 pm).

The Commission met in the conference room adjacent to the Town Court at Town Hall. Meeting was called to order by Chairman Yarabek at 5:10 pm. Myles Putman agreed to be the recording Secretary for the evening

1. Minutes of May 15, 2017 meeting. Motion by Stefan Yarabek to approve the minutes as submitted, seconded by Barry Benepe; approved unanimously.

2. Miscellaneous. Barry noted that the Holiday Inn project is on the Town Planning Board's agenda for June 20, 2017; but the Kaaterskill Solar project is not.

3. Kaaterskill Solar Resolution (Old Business).

There was further discussion on the resolution adopted at last month's meeting, and changes in wording were offered. Stephan mentioned to Bill that as a side issue, it would be desirable to reach out to organizations such as Scenic Hudson about preserving farm lands and open spaces in Saugerties through conservation easements.

After some discussion, it was agreed that the second "Whereas" paragraph would be reworded as follows:

Whereas, in conformance with the requirements of the Town of Saugerties Comprehensive Plan, the HPC after careful study and discussion of the documents have concluded that: The proposed Industrial use affecting the historically sensitive and protected historic structures and their environs in the agricultural area of Old Kings Highway which is itself an historic entity will negatively impact the view shed of and from the historic homes on and around Old Kings Highway; therefore

Motion by Susan Puretz to amend the resolution passed on May 15, 2017, to replace the second "Whereas" paragraph with the revised language; seconded by Michael Sullivan Smith; approved unanimously.

4. Honoring the Stone Houses of Saugerties.

Susan reviewed the draft of the memorializing resolution. Barry questioned the term "concentration". Susan explained that this means the largest number of stone buildings within a given municipality. The SHPO representatives made this statement at the audit meeting.

Barry suggested a number of changes. The term "stone building" should be used in the resolution instead of "stone house" - think of the Katsbaan Reformed Church. Also, stone buildings don't "document" history, they "manifest" it (under the "Be it Resolved" section). The term "spiritually" under "Be it resolved" should be replaced by "thematically".

Michael said some recognition should be given to those people who began to restore some of the old stone houses starting from the mid-1970's. The Runsdorf site (the York House) is a good example.

Bill asked what would the Town Board do with the resolution. Stefan said that this designation is to call attention to, and raise public awareness of, these historic resources and to recognize their value in the promotion of the tourism industry in the Town of Saugerties.

5. Runsdorf site visit.

Susan quickly summarized the visit to the Runsdorf residence on Old Powder Mill Road (III) on the afternoon of May 31, 2017. Susan, Michael and Myles were present. This site was inventoried as the "York House". A stone house with additions; also replacement metal fixtures, such as door hinges, made by Myron Teller. The owners expressed interest in participating in future historic promotional projects. There was brief discussion of the history of Powder Mill Road.

6. Bus Tour.

Susan said that the Runsdorf visit brought to mind the fact that there has not been a house tour in the Town since 2012, and she would like to revisit the idea of doing a "Bus Tour" of historic sites in the Town that are visible - visually accessible - from the public street system.

Michael recalled doing a small-scale bus tour of the Village during the 2003 Artist's tour.

This might work as an autumn event, possible link into the Mum Festival weekend. We might even get some homeowners to open up for the day. Too late to plan for 2017, but place this on the calendar for 2018.

With no further business to discuss, Barry Benepe made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Michael Sullivan Smith. Meeting was adjourned at 6:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Myles Putman

(Minutes approved as amended on 7-17-2017)