

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, February 26, 2007

Attendance - Board Members: William H. Trumbour, Josh Randall, Barry Benepe, Susan Puretz, Michael Smith, Leeanne Thornton, Town Board Liaison, and Cheryl Van Schaack, Secretary.

Public: John N. Vagianelis, Esq., Marjorie & Harry Block, Eliner W. Trumbour, E. Mark Smith, Kandy Harris, Saugerties Times, Pat & Victor Feola, and G. W. Bill Poythress.

1. **Welcome to new member Susan Puretz:** Barry welcomed Susan Puretz to the Commission. She was one of the people behind the creation of the City of Poughkeepsie Historic District Commission. She served, as it's first Chairperson, the bylaws, guidelines, etc. She was responsible for the creation of the Garfield Place Historic District and the Academy Street Historic District, both in the city of Poughkeepsie. She has done research and written books in reference to both the Garfield Place and Academy Street Historic District, for both the State and Federal designation. She was instrumental in keeping the blue stone sidewalk in the Garfield Place and making it safer for pedestrians. She is also responsible for the signs of the individual houses at Garfield Place.
2. **Minutes of January Meeting:** 11. Jeannine Ricketson – Jeannine agrees, but she wants no involvement in this. Josh moved to accept the January minutes. Michael Smith seconded the motion, and all were in favor.
3. **Reopen Public hearing on Winston Farm:** Barry said that Terry Gilbride couldn't attend this evening because of the weather and asked that the hearing be continued next month.

Marti Randall read and submitted a letter that she received from Susan Baker, the wife of James Baker, the former Secretary of State supporting designation. She read and also submitted a letter from Lloyd Loop, Town Historian in the 1980's. She also showed photos of headstones on the property, "Petrus Hommel" and "Isaac Myer" 1803, and provided a copy of the Source List for her copyrighted DVD with copies to Terry Gilbride and John Vagianelis.

Marjorie Block spoke in support of designation as a descendant of Evert Wynkoop who has legal rights to visit their cemeteries on the Winston Farm. She doesn't want any harm to happen to this site. She has been in the Wynkoop House on the highway and a wooden house way in the back on the site. Peter Sparling was one of his descendants. Greg Mapstone took photos when he worked for the County Health Dept. before he joined the L.A. Group.

Barry said that that Janet Loop had told him that she had been on the Winston Farm some 30 years ago and had seen three Wynkoop cemeteries. Barry read and submitted a letter dated January 2, 2007 from Douglas Mackey, NYS Historic Preservation Program

Analyst stressing the archaeological importance of the site. He also read and submitted another letter from Michael Cetera, Architect, supporting designation.

4. **Historic Preservation Plan 2007:** Josh moved to adopt the Historic Preservation Plan 2007 as an ongoing open-ended document subject to amendment. The motion was adopted unanimously.

The vote is as follows:

Michael S. Smith – Yes

Barry Benepe – Yes

Bill Trumpbour – Yes

Josh Randall – Yes

Susan Puretz – Yes

5. **Historic Preservation – How It Works:** Barry asked Commission members to prepare comments to bring in for a more formal document. Josh moved to table, Bill seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

6. **Landmark Designation Guidelines:** Barry said that the guidelines were for use by the commission. It was felt that discussion of these should be coupled with discussion of Priorities.

7. **Priorities for Designation:**

A. **Development Pressure:** Barry said the Myers House on Kings Highway, surrounded by industrial development is an example of this priority.

B. **Exemplary Types of Houses:** Some felt that stone houses as a group should come first. Josh pointed out that some wood framed houses back in the early 1800's were equally important.

C. **Houses in Danger of Loss through Neglect:** Michael said that over the past 35 years we have lost at least 4 houses. Barry said the other house that is in danger is the remains of the second Brink House.

D. **Owner's Desire to Designate:** Victor and Pat Feola attended this meeting to seek designation of there two story third Brink House on King's Highway. Josh was amazed

the way the basement just absolutely intrigues him. Josh said that the "Request for Designation form" is still not on our website. Leeanne will be updating the website. Josh moved to table #6 & #7, to allow members time to review these. Michael seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

8. **Certificates of Appropriateness Application (2 pages):** Susan proposed, "may be necessary" be substituted for "required". Josh moved that we adopt as amended and the motion was carried unanimously. Page 2 was laid over.

9. **Certificate of Appropriateness Guidelines (2 pages):** Barry asked the commission to review this on their own and bring their comments to the next meeting.

10. **Review of Historic Resources Survey:** – Karenza at the Town Hall copied Volume 1 of the survey, which was distributed to the members. Leeanne said that we could take Volume 2 down to Staples and have it done there. Barry showed a map that he had done, showing the 155 category 1 properties. Josh said he would bring the map down to the Copy Hut, and make several more copies. Josh will also have copies of Volume 2 copied for all of the members. Barry showed display panels illustrating historic buildings in Volume 2, which will be kept by the Historical Society at the Kiersted House and made available for future exhibits and consultation. Leeanne mentioned that on Channel 23 we could put on a Panel Discussion for the public to view and get knowledge of the Historic Commission.

11. **Old Business:** Leeanne said that the Town Board would be considering legislation providing tax exemption for certified improvements to designated properties for up to 10 years. She asked the assessor to review and approve it. The exemption is authorized under State Law. **Exemption Code 4196 – Section 4.01 RPTL Sec. 444-a** 10 year reduction for homes designated by a Historic Preservation Commission – alterations or rehabilitations must have commenced after the effective date of the local law, exempt from taxation to the extent of any increase in value attributable to the alteration or rehabilitation. Such improvements are exempt from special advalorem limits as well as from general municipal and school taxes but are liable for special assessments.

12. **Adjournment:** Josh Randall moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Michael Smith, and approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

The next meeting will be held, Monday, March 19th @ 7 p.m.

Cheryl Van Schaack, Recording Secretary