

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, June 18, 2007

Attendance - Board Members: Michael Smith, Josh Randall, Barry Benepe, Susan Puretz, Myles Putman, and Cheryl Van Schaack, Secretary.

Absent: Leeanne Thornton

Public: John N. Vagianelis, Esq., Terry Gilbride, Carolyn Specht, Ralph Schaller, Michael E. Catalinotto, Pat & Victor Feola, Jill O'Leary, and Marti Randall.

1. New Commission member: Myles Putman: Barry introduced, provided background information, and then welcomed Myles Putman.

2. Minutes of May: Josh, after noting that James L. should be James O. Winston throughout the document. Moved to accept the May minutes as amended. Michael 2nd the motion. Passed 4 to 0 with Myles abstaining.

3. Request for Designation of James Brink House (Anchorage Farm): Barry received a letter from Elizabeth J. Shafer in regards to designating the Anchorage Farm as a historic property. The board members visited the house. Josh thought the property was really intriguing; the main floor of the house was very interesting. During the walk down to the intersection of the Hudson with the Sawyerkill, the Commissioners noted that the site could be the location of the Old Grist Mill.

MOTION: (BARRY/SUSAN): move that we schedule a public hearing at the August meeting. The date would be August 20th.

ACTION: All voted and were in favor of the motion.

4. Public Hearing on proposed designation of the Third Brink House at 501 King's Highway: Barry opened the Public Hearing on proposed designation of the Third Brink House at 501 King's Highway. The Commission has had earlier discussion about the designation of the house, and Barry and Josh have visited the site. The windows in the basement are two over two, and upstairs the windows are 6 over 6. The windows, stone foundation walls and floor beams reflect possibly two separate and sequential nearly symmetrical wings around today's central entrance. Josh said that the title search only went back to the 1950's when the present small home lot was subdivided from the original farm. He said that he might have to search county records to trace the house's history. Barry asked Michael to do some research on early maps to trace the names of previous or original owners. Victor & Pat Feola, the current owners, said the only concern they have is, that their house is on the market for sale, and they didn't want the new prospective buyers to have a problem. Barry assured them that designation would only enhance the property's value since it would act against the draw back of the house's location by the Thruway. Josh volunteered

to do further research. A motion to continue the hearing and to schedule an on-site visit to the house was made. All were in favor of the motion.

5. Consideration of designation of the Winston Farm: Barry said that there was a very fine article in the Post Star last week; however, that information would not be considered in the Commission's deliberations. Barry read the six criteria from the Commission Ordinance regarding designation. The Commission then discussed each criteria, one at a time, and voted on each criteria, one at a time.

A 1. Possesses special character or historic or aesthetic interest or value as part of the cultural, political, economic or social history of the locality, region, state or nation; and/or

VOTE: Michael Smith: Yes Susan Puretz: Yes Myles Putman: Abstain
Josh Randall: Yes Barry Benepe: Yes **Motion approved 4-0**

A 2. Is identified with historic personages; and/or

VOTE: Michael Smith: Yes Susan Puretz: Yes Myles Putman: Abstain
Barry Benepe: Yes Josh Randall: Yes **Motion approved 4-0**

A 3. Embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style; and/or

VOTE: Michael Smith: Yes Susan Puretz: Yes Myles Putman: Abstain
Barry Benepe: Yes Josh Randall: Yes **Motion approved 4-0**

A4. Is the work of a designer whose work has significantly influenced an age; and/or

VOTE: Michael Smith: No Susan Puretz: Yes Myles Putman: Abstain
Barry Benepe: No Josh Randall: Yes **Motion denied 2-2**

5. Because of a unique location or singular physical characteristic, represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood; and/or

VOTE: Michael Smith: Yes Susan Puretz: Yes Myles Putman: Abstain
Barry Benepe: Yes Josh Randall: Yes **Motion approved 4-0**

A6. Is listed on the State and/or National Registers of Historic Places, or which is the subject of a pending application for listing.

This criteria is not applicable to this designation.

MOTION: (Randall/Puretz): Moved that the Historic Preservation Commission designate the Winston Farm as an Historic site because it fulfilled 4 out of the 6 criteria for such designation.

VOTE: Michael Smith: Yes Susan Puretz: Yes Myles Putman: Abstain
Barry Benepe: Yes Josh Randall: Yes **Motion approved 4-0**

John Vagianelis, Esq. said that the Town Board has 30 days, subsequently changed to 45 days, after the date of designation, June 18, 2007, to disapprove or modify this action.

Other Old Business: West Camp Cemetery – Barry distributed photos of the West Camp Cemetery that he and Susan had visited. Barry will make copies of the photos to give to the other board members. Discussion followed on this and other cemeteries.

New Business: Angela (Jill) O'Leary, Chimney Road, Malden, spoke with the Commission about the possibility of having her house designated. There will be a follow-up on this.

Adjournment: Josh Randall moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Susan Puretz, and approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be held, Monday, July ^{19th}~~23~~rd @ 7:00 p.m.

Cheryl Van Schaack, Recording Secretary