

**Town of Saugerties  
Historic Preservation Commission  
Minutes of the December 18, 2017 meeting**

Present: Stefan Yarabek, Chairman; Susan Puretz, Vice-Chairwoman; Commission members Myles Putman, Secretary; and Michael Sullivan Smith; Town Historian Audrey Klinkenberg; Town Board Liaison Bill Schirmer (arrived 5:43 pm)

Excused: Commission member Barry Benepe.

The Commission met in the conference room adjacent to the Building Department offices at Town Hall. Meeting was called to order by Chairman Yarabek at 5:06 pm.

**Approval of minutes of November 20, 2017 Commission meeting.**

*Motion by Michael Sullivan Smith to accept the minutes as submitted, seconded by Susan Puretz; approved unanimously.*

**Old Business.**

1. NYSOPRHP/CLG Audit. Stefan reported that he had still not received a response from SHPO. He will write a letter which will state that due to the inaction by SHPO, the HPC will conclude that there are no issues with their CLG Audit. Susan asked Stefan to send the letter by Certified Mail. It was suggested that the Supervisor's office should be checked for any mail that SPHO may have sent, as it may have been directed to the Town Board. Stefan will check with Terri.
2. Stone House Legacy memorialization resolution. Stefan also reported that there has been no further response from SHPO regarding this issue. Stefan will write a separate letter requesting that SHPO provide their recommended course of action on the memorial designation.
3. Bus Tour (May 19, 2018). Susan reported the outcome of the last meeting on December 4 and subsequent developments.
  - (A) the Itinerary has been changed to focus on the Asbury and West Camp areas, with visits to three houses and a start/stop point at either Saint Paul's church or the High School.
  - (B) A school bus will be used instead of the originally proposed Trailways bus.
  - (C) Susan said that First Student gave her a 670.00 quote for use of one of their buses, seating approximately 45 people, for the tour. This has now been reduced to \$636.91.

As for the starting point, Myles suggested that Susan contact the Church Council President for Saint Paul's to further investigate use of their property for vehicle parking and bus turning.

Further matters to be considered include insurance, need for police, etc, matters that would be directed to the Town Board. Michael said that we should review our records for the 2009 - 2012 house tours to flesh out the list of various issues that we had to address back then, and which would be necessary to address with this tour.

Susan has asked Stefan to check the letter of contract with the prospective involved landowners that had been in use for previous tours, to make sure that the Town is still okay with the letter.

4. Asbury District. Stefan has drafted a letter to the landowners and a copy will be circulated to Commission members tomorrow for review and comment. Stefan also scanned Michael's article on the Palatines from November 30, 2017 Saugerties Times. Stefan intends to circulate the final draft of the letter along with the article, the short report and the study area map.

Stefan had in mind inviting the landowners to the January 15, 2018 Commission meeting for an information session, followed by a public hearing in February. Michael believed the process should not be rushed in order to allow for greater participation by the landowners. Susan was in favor of getting the district designation in place for the bus tour. Michael explained that this is an opportunity for the Commission, as part of its "study" of an Asbury District, to work with the individual landowners on their own properties. He believes this may create an environment where people are encouraged to speak more freely about their property's history. The extended time period for this process can also allow for greater media coverage and improved public awareness. We should find ways to involve the landowners in the study process.

After further discussion, it was agreed that Stefan will circulate the letter and attachments for the January 2018 meeting as planned. A public hearing will not be scheduled for February. Instead, the Commission will work with the individual landowners over the following months.

Stefan asked Michael to provide a full draft of his article on the Palatines, as opposed to the edited version in the Saugerties Times, with the intent of providing each landowner with a copy at next month's meeting.

5. History Map. Tabled.
6. Other Old Business. There was no other old business to discuss.

### **New Business.**

1. Certificate of Appreciation for Bill Schirmer. The Commission took a moment to express its thanks and appreciation for our liaison, departing Town Board member Bill Schirmer. Michael prepared the Certificate document and Stefan presented the same, fully framed, to Bill. Bill expressed his appreciation and thanked the Commission for their work.
2. Other New Business. There was no other new business on the agenda.

### **Miscellaneous Business.**

1. Town Historian Report. Audrey reported on the following:
  - (A) The 1813 tax records of the Town have been scanned and transcribed. A copy is at the Saugerties Library. The records identify slave owners in the Town and the tax that was assessed on slaves.

- (B) On-going work on Ernie Hassenger's scrapbook
  - (C) Continuing work on transcribing the Brink diaries
  - (D) Project in the works with the American Legion Post 72 transcribing their minutes.
  - (E) Will be present at the Masonic Lodge later this month and will discuss with their officials the idea of working on their history.
2. Marti Randall archives. Susan mentioned Marti Randall's research on Winston Farm and the need for a suitable archiving location, due to her health issues. Susan said that the Saugerties Library has very little storage space. The Lamb archives were mentioned as an alternative. Both Susan and Audrey will be in touch with Marti.
  3. Central Hudson. Myles summarized an e-mail that he had sent out earlier regarding Central Hudson's legal notice to file an application for upgrades to their "H" and "SB" 69 kV transmission lines between the North Catskill and Hurley Avenue substations. The corridor is adjacent or proximal to a few locations of local historic importance, such as the Cockburn house on Churchland Lane and Linquist property. Myles expressed his interest in the scope and degree of Central Hudson's "due diligence" in identifying possible cultural resource impacts. When filed with the PSC, a copy of the application will also be available in the Saugerties Library.

The Commission encouraged Myles to keep tabs on this project as it develops.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Myles Putman  
Secretary  
Town of Saugerties Historic Preservation Commission