

# Town of Saugerties Historic Preservation Commission Minutes of the July 17, 2017 meeting

Present: Stefan Yarabek, Chairman; Susan Poretz, Vice-Chair; member Myles Putman, Secretary; member Michael Sullivan Smith; and member Barry Benepe (arrived around 5:30 pm); Bill Schirmer, Town Board Liaison (arrived around 5:40 pm); Guests: Judith Spektor (arrived around 6:10 pm).

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 5:10 pm.

**Approval of minutes of June 19, 2017 Commission meeting.** Susan and Michael noted under the heading of the Runsdorf residence visit, the surname "Geller" should be changed to "Teller". Motion by Susan Poretz to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Stefan Yarabek; approved unanimously.

**Miscellaneous Business.** Stephan welcomed Myles as the new secretary.

Susan asked about attaching the memorializing resolution, adopted at last month's meeting, to the minutes. These should be attached to, or cited by reference in, an approved resolution. There was additional discussion over following through with the documentation of the Commission's actions. Michael said that he has digitized versions of stationery with the Town's seal. Copies of this file will be distributed to Commission members.

Creation of resolution "template" documents - tabled.

## **New Business.**

1. Address Inconsistencies in the Town Regulations. Myles noted that there are two on-line locations where the Town's Historic Preservation regulations may be viewed. The first is the ecode360 site which provides the entire Town Code of the Town of Saugerties, of which Chapter 145 is the Historic Preservation regulations. The other source is a separate link on the Town website that connects to a PDF version of the Historic Preservation regulations. Myles noted some differences and inconsistencies between the two versions, and had e-mailed Commission members and our Town Board liaison on this prior to tonight's meeting.

Myles stated that the ecode360 version (as part of the entire Town Code) is more complete and concluded that this version is most likely the current version that should be distributed. Following additional discussion by Commission members, it was felt that the PDF version that is on the Town website should be removed.

Stephan requested that Myles prepare a memo from the Commission to the Town Board (with the Town Clerk cc'd) that calls attention to this situation and to recommend that the PDF version be removed from the Town website.

2. Asbury Designation. Barry stated that as a follow-up to our review of the Kaaterskill Solar proposal, the Commission should look at the Asbury neighborhood as a candidate for designation as a local historic district. Barry cited the presence of 3 old stone houses, 2 of which are on the National

Register along with the Trumbour farm fields; an old cemetery; the sites of the old Asbury church and school, and the location of these sites adjacent to two very old roadways. Barry said we should also take into consideration the unique visual character of the neighborhood.

A general study area was defined, bounded on the east by the NYS Thruway, on the north by the Greene County boundary, on the west by the Kaaterskill (at the Comfort Smith house) and Beaver Kill; and on the south by the southerly bounds of the David Smith property (tax parcel 16.1). Myles will begin gathering on-line data about the properties and will also utilize the 2005 survey and the recent survey completed by Neil Larson.

We should begin outreach to the affected property owners, especially the Carnrights, the Trumbours, the Smiths and the McVinishes. This topic will be discussed again in August.

3. Augusta Savage House. Michael reported that he recently visited the August Savage House. The house has been completely renovated and the property owners are planning to renovate the old studio. Michael noted that architecturally the building would probably not be eligible for a local designation. Michael also discussed in detail the employment connection between Augusta Savage and the Knaust family.

### **Old Business.**

1. Solar. This item was listed on the agenda but is not a specific discussion of the Kaaterskill Solar proposal. Tabled.

2. Memorial Resolution - Honoring the Stone Houses of Saugerties. There was further discussion. Barry was not comfortable with using the term "memorializing". References will be made to our "legacy" of stone houses. Myles expressed concerns about our Commission extending a declaration, albeit non-binding, onto properties within the Village of Saugerties. Stephan offered to attend a Village Historic Review Board meeting to discuss this topic. A copy will be sent to SHPO with an explanation that both the Town and Village have CLG designations.

Motion made by Michael Sullivan Smith to refer the resolution, with explanatory notes, to the Town Board and to SHPO, and further to direct Chairman Yarabek to attend the Village HRB meeting to discuss the resolution; seconded by Stephan Yarabek; approved unanimously.

### **Miscellaneous Business (continued).**

Susan called attention to an article in the NY Times about impacts on historic properties and parks in Boston by development of new high rise buildings. She will share the link to this article.

With no further business to discuss, Barry Benepe made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Susan Poretz. Meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted  
Myles Putman  
Secretary