

**Town of Saugerties**  
**Historic Preservation Commission**

**Minutes**

**October 19, 2015**

Monday October 19 2015 5 PM Planning Board Room Town Hall

Present HPC members Barry Benepe, Michael Sullivan Smith, Susan Puretz, Stephen Shafer  
Town Board Liaison Wm Schirmer arrived 6 PM. (since the meeting time was changed earlier  
this year from 7 to 5 PM he has an unavoidable conflict in the first hour)

Guest Neil Larson

Excused HPC member Stefan Yarabek and HPC secretary Audrey Klinkenberg

Minutes of Sept 21 meeting had not been received by everyone. It was decided to defer  
consideration until next meeting. Susan Puretz raised question of whether a member who was  
not at a particular meeting can vote on approval of minutes from that meeting. Chair Benepe  
said yes. Susan said she would check in a manual of parliamentary procedure and report back.

Neil Larson, of Larson Fisher Associates, was our invited guest tonight. He is ready to start on  
phase one of a proposed extensive update of potentially historic properties in the Town of  
Saugerties. The Village is not included.

The HPC had voted at the Sept meeting to ask him to start. He had made a proposal to us earlier  
at our invitation for a five-phase project. The details of this proposal are on file with us.

This first phase is a spreadsheet building on data from the Assessor's files on structures and  
parcels recorded before 1970. Susan informed him that the assessor's office had provided to her  
some data on about 1510 structures that existed before 1946. She asked why 1970 is his  
proposed cutoff date, as this would likely double the number of items on the inventory. Neil

replied that structures more than 50 years old are considered to have possible historic and cultural significance. He added five years to cover against mis-dates.

The new spreadsheet will pinpoint the location of each structure or parcel in that time frame, color-coded by time period. It will specifically identify the 155 structures that are in the Cultural Resources Survey published in 2005. The 155 structures in that survey come from the structures identified as built before 1945 and then ranked by Bill Rhineheart and Jeanne Goldberg slightly more than a decade ago from material made available by the assessor's office 1945.

Barry Benepe pointed out that if we move into phase three of the proposal, which would require a future grant to do, there will be a requirement for matching in-kind work by volunteers. Neil noted that data entry into the state electronic record system (Cultural Resource Information System, or CRIS) should qualify as the Town's in-kind work.

The Commission has allocated \$750 from our 2015 budget toward phase I, which Neil had estimated would cost \$1000. We plan to pay the remaining \$250 in 2016.

Neil replied to a question from Barry that he would have a complete or nearly complete work product at our December meeting, to be presented with a projector (printing would be too voluminous)

We thanked Neil for his meeting with us and he departed

Barry asked if anyone could attend the Planning Board meeting of Oct 20 at which the Holiday Inn proposal for Old Kings Highway would be presented. No one could commit.

The "history map project" was next discussed. Barry wants to put out a request for proposals seeking a consultant to develop a map of Saugerties with color that would precisely highlight the following items we had listed at a meeting in May: Burial grounds, houses of worship, quarries, contours, old road, railroads, bridges, dams, brickyard, bodies of water, and industrial ruins. Michael observed that pinpointing quarries is a huge task; Stephen said "why not use for now only the ones you know about?"

In answer to the question of what would be the “base map?” Michael recommended the 1893 USGS Topographical maps in two quadrants where the town of Saugerties is surveyed on the mountain side and the river side.

Susan proposed having Myles Putman consult on the map. Stephen said he thinks Michael could do the map though not in color. Michael commented about the content layering and coloring of the map, to wit, that color was a non issue in composing the map digitally because layers can be made any color in the production of the finished product.

Motion (Susan/Stephen) that Barry ask Myles to come to the next meeting and present how he could work with Michael, using newly discovered resources from the Lamb Rosenblum collection. Unanimously carried. It was agreed that if Myles continued he should get a consultant’s fee.

Stephen reported he had asked Jonathan Shapiro, head of Village HRB about coming to a meeting and working on a grant request together. The latter had replied that State Historic Preservation Office does not want such joint efforts. Barry Benepe confirmed this is so. Nothing further to do on that front.

Regarding the question raised earlier this year as to whether the Building Department has a duty to notify HPC when it seems there is an application for work on a structure that is not designated but is one of the 155 in the Cultural Resources Survey: Barry reported that Claudette told him several months ago that the Department has no duty to do so and is bound by regulations which require a reply to the applicant within 10 days. Barry said he had informed the HPC of this, but Stephen remarked that if so, he, Stephen, had overlooked any mention in the May or September minutes. Barry added he would ask Claudette to try to notify him if one of the 155 looks threatened so that he might be able to call an emergency meeting to discuss the problem. Susan, because of time considerations, gave a brief verbal update on the Historic Houses Day held Oct 17 at SPAF (and will send out the preliminary report she had prepared for this meeting). In brief, more than 80 people attended, and copies of the Guidelines for Historic Preservation were distributed to all attendees. She reported that the media display (blow-ups of several pages from the Guidelines plus other selected illustrations) was quite impressive.

A final report will be presented at the next meeting.

Staples Brickyard. Stephen reported he had contacted Jim Hall at Palisades IPC who saw no obstacle to our designating the Brickyard. Barry noted that more descriptive data are needed before we can do so, including (ideally) a survey. Bill Schirmer noted that a survey has not been found yet and would be very costly. Stephen and Barry will follow-up on the survey issue by contacting Jim Hall again.

1883 Rte 32 is on the National Registry and the owners are interested in getting a local designation. Barry wants to meet with them soon, and Stephen would like to go with him, maybe next Monday?

The preliminary budget proposal for 2016 went to the Town on Sept 30. Bill Schirmer told us that in the first look the Town Board had not allocated anything to us for 2016 as it appeared we had hardly spent anything in 2015 first three quarters. This is a major misunderstanding, as we have made big outlays in 2015 fourth quarter as predicted in the budget request we submitted for 2015 –back in 2014. Bill said he will speak to the Supervisor, and recommended that Barry do likewise. Bill warned that money is very tight indeed for 2016 because of expenses and the tax cap.

Review of the September minutes and the budget proposal submitted showed an error by Stephen in preparing the proposal. The sum of all line items approved in the Sept 21 meeting came to \$3475, but on the proposal he prepared there was a typo and the sum was given incorrectly as \$4475. Stephen said he would send an amended version with note of explanation to the Supervisor the next morning.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM

Next meeting will be 5 PM Nov 16 2015

Draft minutes by Stephen Shafer standing in for Audrey Klinkenberg