

# 1Town of Saugerties

## Historic Preservation Commission Minutes of the May 21, 2018 meeting.

Present: Commission Chair Stefan Yarabek, Vice-Chair Susan Puretz, Commission members Myles Putman, Secretary; and Michael Sullivan Smith; Town Historian Audrey Klinkenberg, and Town Board Liaisons Paul Andreassen and John Schoonmaker.

Excused: Commission member Barry Benepe.

Guests: Samantha Dederick, Kevin Drescher, John Palcher.

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 4:59 pm.

Approval of minutes of April 16, 2018 Commission meeting.

*Motion by Susan Puretz to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2018 meeting as submitted, seconded by Michael Sullivan Smith; approved with 4 in favor, none opposed and one excused.*

Old Business.

- 1. Asbury District Designation.** In attendance were several Town residents whose properties are adjacent, but not within, the study area. Sam Dederick stated that she had conversations with the Trumbours and Carnrights. She also questioned if the Commission had spoken to representatives of the Smith estate, and asked that the Commission not rush into holding a public hearing until this particular landowner has been contacted. Stefan said he is open to this.

The two Smith parcels comprise the largest portion of the proposed district. Stefan stated that the Commission directed him in December to draft the letter, which was sent to the affected property owners earlier this month. Sam asked that the Commission consider the impact upon development rights on the affected parcels. The area has an agricultural heritage, but she pointed out that agriculture doesn't pay the taxes. She stated she is against "zoning by neighbors". She asked that the Commission consider the burden this may place upon landowners.

Kevin Dreschler asked if this district designation is a result of the Cypress Creek solar proposal on the Smith tract. Stefan said yes. Kevin asked if this property was the sole reason for the proposed district. Michael responded that the McVinishes, current owners of the Sebring House, expressed interest in having their property designated as a local landmark. The Commission took a broader view in light of the agricultural and architectural history of the area, coupled with the history of the Palatine families in the area.

Stefan referenced the guest sign-in sheet with e-mail addresses, and stated that the Commission will answer the questions and concerns raised this evening.

- 2. Bus Tour.** Susan provided a short summary of the Tour, as well as the history and details of the previous house tours. Funds raised by the tour go into a separate account, from which tour expenses are paid. There were 67 tickets sold online, and 4 sold on the day of the tour. A formal post-tour debriefing is to be scheduled.
- 3. Central Hudson Power Line upgrade (PSC Application) Request for "Party" Status.** Update on participation as an interested "party". Paul and John confirmed that the Town Board is now expressing interest and support for a "party status" designation with the PSC. Myles will prepare some materials for the Supervisor's Secretary to make the on-line request

at the NYS DPS website.

4. **Other Old Business:** There was no other old business discussed.

New Business.

1. **Trail of Our Ancestors Guide.** Susan suggested this as an outcome of the House Tour, to expand the guidebook to include the entire Town. Vernon Benjamin handles grant applications. Susan will speak to Vernon about this.

*Motion by Susan Poretz, seconded by Michael Sullivan-Smith, endorsing and supporting the idea of developing a town-wide historic guidebook; approved 4 in favor, none opposed and one absent.*

2. **Poultney Bigelow Park.** The condition of the cannon at the park was a concern. There was a proposal to move it to the American Legion Hall, but the cannon will remain in the park. The plaque will be re-installed. The park is maintained by the Town. Ceremonies are held here every year.
3. **Re-Imbursement for Conference Attendance.** Myles attended the "Preservation New York State" (the NY Statewide Preservation Conference) in Albany on April 27, 2018, as part of his continuing education requirements. Myles can be reimbursed for the cost of the conference registration.

*Motion by Susan Poretz, seconded by Michael Sullivan-Smith, to reimburse Myles Putman for the costs of attending the Preservation New York State conference on April 27, 2018, upon receipt from Myles vouchers for the same; approved 4 in favor, none opposed and one absent.*

4. Other New Business. There was no other new business discussed.

Miscellaneous Business.

Town Historian's Report. Audrey has compiled and transcribed the minutes of the Lamouree-Hackett American Legion Post No. 72 and will present these on June 24.

She has completed up to July 1900 with the Benjamin Myer Brink diaries. There are seven more years' of entries to be transcribed. There are 9 diaries total, each one containing 2 years of entries.

She is also working on the minutes of the Ellen Russell Finger home (later the Old Ladies' home); and the Mulford FD in Glasco.

*Finding no further Commission business to be discussed, a motion was made by Myles Putman to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Barry Benepe.*

Meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

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

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