

## MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission of the Town of Saugerties was held on 17 November 2008.

**Present:** Barry Benepe; Josh Randall; Michael Sullivan Smith; Susan Puretz; Myles Putman; Leeanne Thornton and Kate Kane, Secretary. *Kate @ saugerties.org*

**Additional Attendees:** Dave Minch, Village Historic Review Board; Theresa Duschane, Audrey Klinkbenberg

Barry opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

**1. Minutes of October 20, 2008:** Following review and discussion, which included correction of several factual items and spelling mistakes, Josh made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Myles seconded. Josh: aye; Michael: aye; Susan: aye; Barry: aye, Myles: aye. Motion passed.

**2. Introduction of Dave Minch:** Barry introduced Dave Minch, the Chair of the Village of Saugerties Historic Review Board. Dave explained that the mission of the board had shifted to a policing role for the village's historic district. Michael, who is also a member of the Historic Review Board, explained that board members were each assigned an area of the village's historic district to monitor for violations. Barry asked if things were happening in the village without permits. Dave explained that they had some communication difficulties with the village building inspector to prevent things from being erected or installed that violated the guidelines of the historic district.

Barry said that the Town's designations came with the deed, so that misunderstandings were less likely. Dave said that when a property is leased (as is often the case for village buildings) that the issue gets complicated. Josh corrected Barry by saying that a Town historic designation is attached to the property record and is on file with the Town Clerk's office, the Assessor's office and the Building Department. He added that it is supposed to be cross-referenced with the deed, but isn't listed on the deed itself. Barry said that there was no notification procedure for landowners and that it might be a good idea for the Commission to periodically review the properties that it had designated.

Leeanne asked Dave what the extent of the historic district was in the village. Dave gave a brief explanation of the buildings that were included. Barry asked if the Village Historic Review Board had designated properties (such as the Loertzel Brewery building) that were on the federal list. Dave said that they didn't tend to do that. Barry said that federal designation doesn't prevent a local entity from acting on a property. He then asked Dave what the procedure was for landmarking in the village. Dave answered that the owner of the property or the board could recommend properties for designation. Barry asked if it were possible for a third party to request a designation. Dave said that that would be possible if the board were to act on the recommendation of a third party.

Dave said that he would like to update the Commission members on the Dragon Inn property, located on Route 9 in the village. He said that Village Historic Review Board members had recently walked the property and seen signs of vandalism and illegal entry into the building. Board members then met with the building inspector who explained that the village would not clean up the property in part because the village would not want to assume the liability associated with the derelict property. Dave said that the village board was hoping to meet with the property's owner and explain the situation and try to get the building secured.

Barry said that he would like to see the carriage house and gatehouse on the Dragon Inn property included in an historic designation. He added that the Commission was considering designation for the Carriage Road near Esopus Creek.

**3. Secretary's Report:** Barry asked Kate Kane to speak to Commission members about an issue that she had recently raised to Barry via email. Kate explained that at some point after January (2009), she would need to resign as secretary of the Commission due to work obligations. She added that she would still be available for the next few meetings to take minutes. Kate said that the Commission members may want to consider a rotating system of taking minutes amongst themselves, rather than hiring a new secretary, as the money saved could be a funding source for current initiatives.

**4. Visit to Flatbush Cemetery:** Barry said that he had recently visited Flatbush Cemetery and that a map dated 1857 had shown the cemetery having 16' x 16' plots – it was essentially a subdivision for burial plots. Audrey added that that area was called Flatbush Community Center and that there was an informal right-of-way access to the graves but that the formal right-of-way had been closed. Dave said that it should be called a graveyard since a cemetery is associated with a church and this burial location is not associated with any church.

**5. Stone House Tour:** Barry said that he had been in touch with Jamie Fine, who manages the annual Saugerties Garden Tour. Susan asked if Jamie was willing to chair the committee and take responsibility for the Stone House Tour. Barry said that he didn't go so far as to ask her to do those things but that she said that she would be willing to help. He added that she wouldn't give the Commission her mailing list or hardware for erecting signs and that she recommended not using a bus as they are expensive. Josh said that if the Commission needed signs for the event that it should print them up while money is still available in the 2008 budget. Leeanne said that the money needed to be spent before December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Leeanne added that the Commission would need insurance for the event and that the Kiersted House would have to absorb the cost of the insurance. She added that the rider that the Kiersted House used for its Christmas event would be a good basis to determine the cost for the Stone House Tour.

Susan said that if Jamie wasn't going to chair the committee that she would need names from Commission members and others who would help out. She added that the Commission needed to select a date for the event. Following discussion, Josh made a motion to hold the Stone House Tour on May 16, 2009 with a rain date of May 17th. Michael seconded. Susan: aye; Myles: aye, Barry: aye, Josh: aye, Michael: aye. Motion passed unanimously.

Susan asked Commission members to review the list of houses that would be included in the tour. Following discussion, Josh made a motion to accept the final list of 11 houses and asked Myles to create a new map showing all of the properties. Michael seconded. Susan: aye; Barry: aye; Myles: aye. Motion passed unanimously.

**6. Blue Mountain Crossroads Historic District:** Barry asked Commission members if they wanted to hold off on this designation. Josh said that historic data was needed on a lot of the properties before designation could be considered. Myles said that research was needed in addition to records data. Barry said that the Commission would hold on this item.

**7. E-W Road:** Barry asked Commission members if designation should proceed on East-West (also known as Niger) Road. Josh said that he had met with Bernie and that Bernie Elsworth had been with the Town Highway Department since 1984 and as far as he knew, the Town has been maintaining the road to the turn-around at the barn since the road was abandoned by the Town in 1929. Barry said that more information was needed and that the Commission would hold on this item as well.

**8. Old Business:** Barry asked Audrey to provide a written narrative of the information that she has collected for possible designation of the Cockburn/Snyder house. Audrey agreed to provide the information. Barry asked Commission members if a public hearing was possible in 2-3 months. Josh said that the Commission should wait until after the holidays to proceed.

Myles made a motion to adjourn. Josh seconded. All unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm.

The next Commission meeting will be held at 7 o'clock in the Town of Saugerties' Building Department Conference Room Monday, December 15, 2008.

Kate Kane