



Joint Historic Preservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

July 6, 2020 7:00pm

Remote meeting conducted using Webex

Attendees: Alan Kowlowitz (Chair), Chris Albright, Andrea Lain, Gwen Spicer

- I. Call to Order – Meeting was called to order at 7:13.
- II. Secretary's Report - Motion by Mr. Albright seconded by Alan Kowlowitz to adopt the minutes of the June 1, 2020 Commission Meeting passed unanimously.
 - a. Rotating responsibility for minutes – Ms. Lain agreed to record minutes for the next few meetings.
- III. Liaisons Reports
 - a. Planning Board/Commission
 - i. Mr. Kowlowitz (AK) noted that Steve Reilly was unable to attend the last Planning Board meeting. AK contacted Chuck Voss to ask if he could email us copies of PD agenda items; there has been no response as of yet.
 - b. Building Inspectors
AK reported that there has been no new information from the Building Inspectors.
 - c. ZBA
 - i. AK noted that all Zoning Board activity goes through the Planning Board first. AK will distribute all pertinent notices from the Planning Board to the JHPC.
 - d. State Office of Historic Preservation
 - i. Ms. Lain (AL) will set up a discussion meeting with Nancy Herter of SHPO regarding including archaeological sites on our planning document and how sites' locations should be protected.
 - e. NYS Preservation League
 - i. Although there is nothing new to report since the last meeting, we should keep in mind the possibility of submitting a grant proposal for next year's funding cycle in April 2021. AK believes we should focus on a portion of the Town rather than the whole; Ms. Spicer (GS) agrees that focus will be essential in preparing for the grant.
- IV. Old Business
 - a. Historic Resources Survey
 - i. Progress report – There are now over 100 properties on the list. We plan to request a list of all houses over 100 years in age from the Town Assessor; once that data has been received, we should be able to add a number of additional properties.
 - ii. Meeting with State Museum staff on archaeological sites –this more properly comes under the jurisdiction of SHPO since they control the state-wide site files. As mentioned

above, AL is scheduling a meeting with Nancy Herter of SHPO to discuss including archaeological sites in our list.

- iii. AK has contacted the Clarksville Historical Society to find out if they would be willing to share their data; he has yet to receive a response.
- iv. As mentioned above, Town Assessor Michael McGuire has offered to give us a list of all the houses in the Town of New Scotland that are older than 100 years. The JHPC discussed the data elements that would be useful in such a report and decided that it should include:
 - Location
 - Building Style
 - Actual Year Built
 - Exterior Wall Material

The report generated by the Assessor will give us a snapshot of all structures in the Town and will help us pinpoint those to include in our inventory.

- b. Draft Policy on Criteria for Inclusion of Sites in Historic Resources Inventory
 - i. The JHPC was asked to vote on the Policy for Inclusion of Sites in the Historic Resources Inventory. AL moved and AK seconded putting the vote forward. All Committee members voted aye, and the policy was accepted.
- c. Debriefing of June 16 with John Scherer.
 - i. AL noted that the Clifton Park registry has a different style from the one we are creating for New Scotland. For example, structures entered on their registry can be eligible for a tax break. AK noted that it is possible the Town could set up such a reward system in the future, but that it has yet to be done. He noted that the Clifton Park Town Board really sees the value of an inventory of historic places. Mr. Albright (CA) thinks that it would be beneficial to set up a similar program in New Scotland and approves of the fact that in Clifton Park they can levy fines for the illegal demolition of historic structures. AK thinks that such a program could be set up in a year and a half, and that it would be helpful to engage the community in the project with public hearings.

V. Old Business

- a. Possible demolition permit for Whitbeck building

There is currently no word on the potential demolition permit for the Whitbeck Building. AK stated that after the application is submitted, we will need to develop a response for the Zoning Board. Now, however, we do not have enough information to do so; it is expected that the necessary data will be available on the actual application.
- b. 1724 Indian Fields Road – Site Plan Review for Solar Project

The Commission has learned that the proposed solar farm, which is privately funded, will not affect the historic house. In fact, the homeowners are currently at work rehabbing the structure.

VI. New Business

The JHPC discussed whether our next meeting should be held in person at the Community Center. Since the Capital District is currently in Stage 4 of the COVID reopening program and since there are only five people on the Committee it should be possible. AK said he would contact Dan Leinung to

see if an in-person meeting would be feasible, and no objections were expressed by Committee members.

- VII. Adjournment – Mr. Albright moved and Ms. Lain seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously.