



Joint Historic Preservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

August 3, 2020 7:00pm

Remote meeting conducted using Webex

Attendees: Alan Kowlowitz (Chair), Chris Albright, Andrea Lain, Gwen Spicer, Richard Frohlich, Dan Leinung

- I. Call to Order – Meeting was called to order at 7:01.
- II. Secretary's Report - Motion by Mr. Albright (CA) seconded by Mr. Frohlich (RF) to adopt the minutes of the July 6, 2020 Commission Meeting with one small correction; 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. AK wrote Chuck Voss to ask if we could receive packets for Planning Board meetings in advance. He learned that Jeremy Cramer is the person who puts together the packets, but as of the time of this JHPC meeting AK has not received one.
 - b. Building Inspectors

AK reported that the Commission received an email from Mr. Mason regarding the re-roofing of 8 Main Street, Voorheesville. AK plans to respond by thanking them for keeping us in mind, but due to the age of the house and the nature of the proposed changes we have no opinion on this particular matter. Ms. Spicer (GS) pointed out that in future cases involving older homes with unique roofing styles we might want to have input; she mentioned a home on 85A that has a ceramic tile roof and Ms. Lain (AL) brought up the special nature of slate roofs. GS stated that where significant expense is involved in retaining historically accurate roofing we can potentially serve as advocates in helping to find outside funding. RF pointed out the if the Commission can be helpful in this way it would put a positive spin on us. AK stated that we will want to leave the door open to reviewing future permit requests of this nature, even though the one in question does not appear to involve historical significance. He will copy us on his response
 - c. ZBA
 - i. No Zoning Board activity was noted.
 - d. State Office of Historic Preservation (SHPO)
 - i. Discussion with SHPO will be covered in Item VIa below.
 - e. NYS Preservation League
 - i. GS asked if she should reach out to Erin Tobin in the Technical and Grants Programs of the Preservation League and invite her to our September meeting to discuss our potential grant proposal. AL and AK agreed, but after reflecting GS noted that Ms. Tobin

will probably be very busy the first two weeks of the new school year and that it would be better to set up a meeting in the latter portion of September. The grant proposal is due in April and will focus on Voorheesville and the northeast portion of our Township.

IV. Old Business

a. Historic Resources Survey

- i. Progress report – There are now over 100 properties on the list; GS in particular has made heroic efforts in adding to it.
- ii. Town Assessor Michael McGuire sent us a list of all private residences in the Town of Scotland that are over 100 years old. This information can be included in our Survey and matched to existing entries, with the benefit of being able to include Tax ID numbers and current landowner name. AL has agreed to work on the database concatenation.
- iii. No new information has been received from the New Scotland Historical Society.
- iv. No new information has been received from the Clarksville Historical Society. AK pointed out that once they start meeting again, we may be able to get data from them.

V. Old Business

a. Possible demolition permit for Whitbeck building

There is still no word on this demolition permit, which apparently has not yet been filed as the building is still standing. CA stated that Jeremy will let us know when the demolition permit is received. GS noted that the Historic Albany Foundation (HAF) has a store of items that have been removed from demolished historic buildings. If the Whitbeck building is to be demolished she suggested that we contact HAF so they can retrieve anything that is salvageable. CA noted that they got material from the Unionville Hotel when it was torn down. RF asked if we should propose to the owners of the Whitbeck property that they contact HAF? AK thought it would be best to work through the Building Inspectors to establish contact, but GS thought that this contact could go both ways with the Commission asking HAF to contact the owners.

VI. New Business

- a. Integrating CRIS and archaeological sites into review process based on discussion with Nancy Herter of SHPO: Ms. Herter agreed to allow us access to the archaeology layer of the CRIS database. AK said that we will be able to check our Registry and then check CRIS to identify potential adverse impacts. Ms. Herter said that she would be willing to help us to interpret the findings and will provide more information if it proves to be necessary. AL has agreed to be the point person for determining the presence of archaeological sites on given properties and will check with Ms. Herter if questions arise. AL will add sites to the Registry on a case-by-case basis. RF asked when this type of information is requested? AK stated that when a project is referred from the Planning Board and when a building permit is required, we will check for the presence of archaeological sites. AK will also get CRIS access to the archeology layer.
- b. Interim procedure for reviewing historic structures and sites: AK has offered to develop the procedure and will write up a draft for discussion at our next meeting. The procedure will be shared with the public for comment. RF asked if John Scherer had a form or procedure we could use. AK explained that the Town of Clifton Park has a different type of Registry and that they offer an incentive for participation; this is an arrangement that we may want to set up in the future.

VII. Adjournment – AK noted that since the first Monday in September is Labor Day, we will need to postpone the meeting for a week until September 14. We will try to hold this meeting at the Voorheesville Village Hall but will decide for certain closer to the scheduled date. Mr. Frohlich moved, and Mr. Albright seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting ended at 7:59 p.m.