

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

**December 7, 2010
Delancey Hall**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bruce Buchholtz
David Talbot
Marcia Rockwood
Steve LaRocca
Francis Tuoti, Chairman

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gail Pantezzi
Debby Moore

ALSO PRESENT: Janice Will, Recording Secretary

Potential Landmarks

Susie Thompson stated that Amy Rosmarin and Ginny Gerardi want to help with the historic designation of Mills Road, and they will come to the January meeting to find out what they can do.

Ms. Thompson said she spoke to B. Hawley Smith about historic designation of the house at 4 East Cross Street, and he is interested.

Ms. Thompson said she will also talk to the Burts, owners of the Bloomer farmhouse at 57 Bloomer Road, as they may also be interested.

Chairman Francis Tuoti said Supervisor Warren Lucas wanted to know if the HPC can secure grant funding to renovate the house at 4 East Cross Street.

Ms. Thompson said she did not think they could do so as long as Mr. Smith owns the property; if the Town were to acquire the property, then they could apply for a grant. She went on to say that the house can still be designated as it is.

Ms. Thompson said Supervisor Lucas is also interested in 14 Front Street, and she passed around some information. She said she has not looked into it yet and asked if anyone would like to do it. Ms. Thompson commented that getting the B. Hawley Smith house designated a landmark would be an important start in Croton Falls.

The Chairman asked about Cynthia Curtis' house.

Ms. Thompson mentioned that the neighborhood is historic, and perhaps the house could be designated.

Chairman Tuoti asked if there is any action to be taken yet re the possible historic landmark houses discussed.

Ms. Thompson said there is not, but she will talk to both Mr. Smith and the Burts after the holidays.

Stone Walls

The Chairman asked if the HPC wants to do anything about the old stone walls around Town.

Ms. Thompsons stated that the Historic Road law mentions stone walls, and they were included in the designation of Baxter Road. She said a Town-wide ordinance regarding the walls would be most unlikely, but many could be saved by designating more roads. She pointed out that the HPC could do nothing about walls around the reservoir because the property is all DEP-owned.

The Chairman asked about a stone chamber on the Havell property on Hardscrabble Road.

Ms. Thompson described it as being in a wall between the Havell property and the lot next door. She explained that Cynthia Curtis spotted it after Ms. Havell had some clearing done along the wall.

David Talbot asked if there is a list of stone chambers in Town, and Ms. Thompson replied that there is/she will e-mail it to the HPC members.

Ms. Thompson said Kay Spear of 955 Peach Lake Road had a deal to sell her property fall through, and now Ms. Spear intends to stay and is interested in having her stone chamber designated.

Mr. Talbot said that is a good one because it is visible.

Ms. Thompson said Ms. Spear's barn is worthy of historic designation too.

Steve LaRocca said the Spear barn is about 70 years old.

Plaques

Chairman Tuoti stated that the payment voucher for the last 3 plaques has been submitted for payment.

Mr. Talbot showed everyone the plaque for the Purdys Schoolhouse.

The Members discussed placement of the Brockmeyer (Mahoney House) plaque, and the Chairman suggested leaving placement of the Purdy Homestead Stone Chamber plaque to Tim Purdy to do.

Mr. LaRocca said he has already found a 9 in. stone and told Mr. Purdy about it. He added that he can affix the plaque to the stone.

Chairman Tuoti asked if there is a cheaper material that could be used for future plaques in order to cut the cost.

Mr. LaRocca said there is an etched aluminum, but it is not as nice.

Mr. Talbot commented that he thought it better to keep them all the same. He went on to say that the proposed plaque for the High School is 14 in. x 20 in. and will cost approximately \$700. He further noted that the Town Board wants the larger/heavy plaque.

Ms. Thompson commented that the entire HPC budget for 2011 is \$1000.

Mr. Talbot said he would not like to use up so much of the budget for one plaque and suggested putting off purchase of the plaque for the High School so the HPC may get more of the smaller plaques.

The Chairman said he would inform the Town Board of the cost of the large plaque.

Mr. Talbot wondered if the Westchester Exceptional Children's School might contribute to the cost for the plaque, as the school will be mentioned on it.

Chairman Tuoti said they should wait and see what the Town Board has to say about the cost of the plaque.

It was agreed that Mr. Talbot will request an updated mock-up of the High School plaque, and the Chairman will show it to Supervisor Lucas/tell him what it will cost.

Joint Endeavor w. Historical Society

Mr. Buchholtz said he thought the tour was to be a fund-raiser for the Historical Society, but others seem to think it will be just for the sake of raising public awareness of historic landmarks in Town.

Marcia Rockwood said the HPC needs money, but Ms. Thompson said they are not permitted to raise funds.

Ms. Rockwood commented that the HPC has helped the Library raise money, but the Chairman explained that the library is separate from the Town/Town commissions.

Ms. Thompson said the problem is that there are already fund-raisers scheduled, and there is a limit to the number of times that people are open to being asked for contributions.

Mr. Buchholtz said he just thought the tour would be a good event/an opportunity to make the public aware.

Ms. Thompson agreed that it would be, and it could be done without charging for it.

Mr. Buchholtz stated that he met with Cynthia Curtis, and he told her the HPC would discuss the issue at this meeting. He said he would like to offer her some direction.

Chairman Tuoti said that Ms. Curtis had been adamant that the tour not be a fund-raiser. He added that they could just charge for the cost of the bus, and the tour could still end at John Michael's restaurant so people might stay and have lunch if they wish. The Chairman said Ms. Curtis had told him there are already enough fund-raisers scheduled and she thought the tour would generate interest and be helpful in raising awareness of what the HPC does. Ms. Curtis also said that if it was decided just to have a couple of landmark-owners speak at a presentation, the attendees would be Historical Society and HPC members, as usual.

Ms. Thompson said she thinks the bus tour would be more interesting for people, and Mr. LaRocca added that it would be good for the HPC to have that kind of exposure.

Mr. Talbot suggested mounting an exhibit at the Library with maps, photos and drawings to be changed over a period of time.

It was mentioned that the Library books up their exhibition space.

Mr. Buchholtz suggested trying for a permanent display somewhere else.

Mr. LaRocca said he would like to get on the Library schedule, and Mr. Talbot and Ms. Thompson agreed.

Further on the subject of the bus tour, Ms. Thompson said they could hand out maps for people to drive themselves around to see historic landmarks, but she likes the bus tour best.

Mr. Talbot said they could let the Historical Society arrange and charge for the bus, and the HPC can support the event.

Mr. Buchholtz said he will relay that message to the Historical Society.

Other

Ms. Thompson said the map work done by the HPC for the Comprehensive Plan Committee can be viewed on the Town website under the Open Space Committee tab, and she added that the members should have the 3 lists worked up (significant historic properties in Town; potential historic roads; and others, i.e. stone chambers). She added that the list of properties is very long, but it can be reproduced if necessary.

Ms. Rockwood offered to work with Ms. Thompson to extract just the properties of real interest from the master list.

Mr. Talbot asked if Ms. Thompson has all the photos taken by the HPC members.

Ms. Thompson said she does, and she is working to combine the Historian's files with those of the HPC. She asked if Mr. LaRocca will speak to Mr. Purdy about the stone for the plaque, and he replied that he will.

Chairman Tuoti offered to help mount the plaque.

Mr. Buchholtz said he and the Chairman will talk to the Bartsches about an appropriate location for their plaque.

Next Meeting

It was agreed to meet on January 4, 2011.

Minutes of November 9, 2010 Meeting.

To approve with changes noted by the secretary.

Motion by: Mr. Talbot

Seconded by: Mr. Buchholtz

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Janice Will, Recording Secretary