

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

**August 2, 2011
Delancey Hall**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Debby Moore
Steve LaRocca
Francis Tuoti, Chairman

MEMBERS ABSENT: David Talbot
Gail Pantezzi
Marcia Rockwood
Bruce Buchholtz, Deputy Chairman

ALSO PRESENT: Susie Thompson, Town Historian
Cynthia Curtis, NS Historical Society
Janice Will, Recording Secretary

Chairman Francis Tuoti opened the meeting and stated that the HPC wouldn't go over the possible Purdys historic district because Bruce Buchholtz was not present. The Chairman asked for an update re mileage markers in Town.

Susie Thompson explained that David Talbot is working on this, but he was not present at the meeting.

Bloomer Road farmhouse

The Chairman asked if Ms. Thompson had anything to report regarding the Bloomer Road farmhouse.

Ms. Thompson replied that the owners are interested but have been busy/have not gotten back to her recently. She added that she thinks they will go ahead with an application for landmark designation.

Approval of June meeting minutes

Noting there was no quorum, the Chairman said the minutes could not be approved.

North Salem Central High School plaque

Chairman Tuoti noted that Bruce Buchholtz had proposed tying the plaque presentation in with the joint HPC/NSHS bus tour, but it was decided that it was too much to do all at once.

Cynthia Curtis said she told John Caralyus of the Westchester Exceptional Childrens School that it would be difficult to do the presentation that day, and he said the school

would do it whenever people want to hold the ceremony. Ms. Curtis explained that there will be a one hour lunch break between a morning and an afternoon tour so there will not be time for the plaque presentation.

The Chairman stated that he told Mr. Buchholtz that the plaque presentation will have to be done at another time.

Ms. Curtis said Supervisor Warren Lucas proposed presenting the plaque in September (the bus tour is October 15).

Co-sponsored bus tour

Ms. Curtis said the tour will be on October 15, arrangements have been made to hire a bus (cost to be covered by the amount charged for the tour), and the plan is to model the tour on one handled by the Historical Society in the past. One group will go out in the morning and one in the afternoon, for a maximum total of 80 people. Lunch (soup, salad and dessert) will be served in between at WECS and is included in the \$25 price (\$20 for students and seniors). Ms. Curtis stated that about half the bus-tour participants signed up for lunch last time.

Ms. Curtis said landmark-owners in Town need to be informed of the upcoming tour before it is advertised, even though the bus will just be driving by their properties. She asked if the HPC and NSHS should send out a joint letter or if it should only come from the HPC, adding that she thought a letter from both groups would be nice.

Ms. Thompson suggested that both Chairman Tuoti and Ms. Curtis could sign the letter.

Ms. Curtis commented that the tour is not a long trip, so she thought they would stop the bus and get out/walk around somewhere, adding that Purdys would be a good place to stop. She asked if anyone thought the bus should be stopped a second time.

Ms. Thompson said the Baxter triangle is a good/safe place to park the bus, and the Union Hall, Balanced Rock, Stebbins Baxter Quick Home and the Keeler Lane Bridge are all right there.

Ms. Curtis said it would be nice to have an on-site display of what things used to look like there.

The Chairman asked what would be done if it rains the day of the tour.

Ms. Curtis said perhaps they would stop the bus, and maybe pass pictures around, but not get out.

Debby Moore suggested taking the bus to the White Elephant where participants could view a display of historic sites before driving past them.

Ms. Curtis liked the idea, adding that the timing would have to be worked out just right. She said she could use some help with write-ups for the more recent landmark designations that are not in the HPC-produced booklet (last 7).

It was agreed that the booklet would not be given away, even if there are enough copies.

Ms. Curtis said she would like to provide a hand-out that might inspire people to think about historic designation of their own homes.

Ms. Thompson said there is a flier called "Should Your Home be a North Salem Historic Landmark".

The Chairman commented that they could ask people to share information/photographs about their homes even if they do not wish to have them designated.

Ms. Curtis suggested that if they have too much time for the tour, people could be brought to the Library to view the framed Bonelli drawings in the conference room.

Chairman Tuoti said he would like to know who is responsible for doing what now that the drawings have been framed.

Ms. Thompson said Bruce Buchholtz is coordinating the project.

Returning to the subject of the bus tour, Ms. Thompson said the HPC could help the NSHS at lunch and also man some of the bus stops on the tour. She said they should not be on the bus as there may not be room.

Ms. Curtis said they should decide whether there will be one stop or two and then figure out how to make the stop(s) meaningful.

Ms. Moore asked if the Koser house (Augustus Juengst House) is to be included on the tour.

Ms. Curtis said it will not be, as it cannot be seen from the road. She pointed out that a bus would not be able to go up Old Schoolhouse Road and turn around, so the Bartsch house (Purdys Schoolhouse) will not be included either. She suggested mentioning in the letters to landmark-owners that while they will try to see all of the properties from the road, they won't be able to get to some.

Ms. Thompson asked what will be covered in Croton Falls.

Ms. Curtis said they could look at the Brooks (Decker) house and mention Juengstville, the mills and the Koser house. She added that the rehearsal drive-around will make clear which houses may be viewed. Ms. Curtis said she was not sure the Samuel Wallace House can be seen from 116/wondered if it can be seen from Wallace Road.

Ms. Moore said perhaps something more like a real house tour (without going inside the houses) would have been better. She stated that maps and descriptive information/pictures of each property could be handed out to people.

Ms. Curtis said it would require docents at every house and be too big a commitment from property-owners; also, the bus tour has already been decided on.

Chairman Tuoti said it will be important to choose the places to stop at.

Ms. Thompson said North Salem Center and Purdys are both good places, and the Chairman added that the Baxter triangle is good also.

Ms. Thompson agreed with Ms. Moore that some kind of hand-out is desirable.

Ms. Curtis said the Historical Society has neither the man-power nor the resources to put this kind of thing together. She said there was no hand-out when the tour of the whole Town was conducted.

Mr. LaRocca said it wouldn't be difficult to put something together.

Ms. Thompson said she has no time to do it.

Ms. Curtis said a copy of the HPC booklet was taken apart and John Vassak made a collage of 12 landmark properties which is very nice. She stated that perhaps Mr. Vassak could do another collage, but there is nothing to use for the 7 most recent designations.

Ms. Thompson noted that there is information on all the landmark properties, it just needs to be done up somehow as a hand-out.

Ms. Curtis said she can reproduce the map done by the HPC for the Comprehensive Plan Committee, and she asked that the HPC create a display of information on landmarks to put up at WECS or one of the bus stops.

Steve LaRocca said he had no time to work on this project, and Ms. Thompson suggested asking Mr. Buchholtz.

Ms. Curtis said she will ask Mr. Vassak to bring an easel to her office, so someone from the HPC can pick it up.

Mr. LaRocca said he will try to help with the display.

Regarding the HPC map, the Chairman said he thinks hand-outs are helpful so people will know what they're looking at.

Ms. Thompson agreed that the map would make a good hand-out.

Ms. Curtis said she will need help with captions for the 7 most recent landmarks.

Re-cap re preparation for NSHS/HPC bus tour:

- Ms. Curtis to work w. Chairman Tuoti on draft letter to landmark-owners as soon as possible.
- John Vassak to bring display board to Cynthia Curtis' office for HPC.
- Ms. Curtis to prepare map. Steve LaRocca print up larger version?
- 11 x 17 in. map for hand-out?

It was decided not to bring up the potential Purdys historic district during the bus tour.

Chairman Tuoti asked about Mills Road.

Ms. Thompson said there is no reason not to mention the possibility of its designation as an historic road, but she added that they need to see how much frontage is owned by the DEP.

Ms. Curtis said this could probably be figured out on the GIS map. She suggested that if they need to fill out the tour, they could show potential historic roads.

The Chairman thought this sounded like a lot of ground to cover, and he asked how long the tour is.

Ms. Curtis responded that it will be 2 hours long. She said they can stop the bus without having people get out to walk around.

Chairman Tuoti said driving up and over Keeler Lane would be a very pretty drive.

Ms. Curtis said maybe they would skip the stop in Purdys if the historic district isn't going to be discussed.

Ms. Thompson said it is still a worthwhile place to stop, and it is pedestrian-friendly.

Mike Bonelli drawings

Ms. Thompson and Ms. Moore both said they disapprove of hanging the framed drawings in the school.

Chairman Tuoti said there should be something in the Town newsletter about the drawings.

Ms. Thompson suggested that he e-mail Supervisor Lucas to ask when the HPC needs to submit copy for the next newsletter (fall).

Ms. Curtis stated that the Supervisor and Marion LaFranco have asked that everyone look at their own sections on the Town website and advise their office of any additions or changes they feel are needed. Ms. Curtis suggested looking at other town websites for ideas.

McKeel's Market – new window/no C of A

Chairman Tuoti said he received a letter from Chris Brockmeyer describing a new window where there had been no window before on the McKeel's Market building in Purdys.

Ms. Moore said the window should not have been put in, and she thought there was probably no Building Permit for it either. She stated that the owner does not live on the premises/a tenant put the window in.

Ms. Curtis suggested e-mailing the Building Inspector to ask if a Building Permit was applied for. She commented that if there is a Building Permit, the Building Inspector should have forwarded the application to the HPC for a Certificate of Appropriateness first.

Ms. Moore asked what the HPC could really do about the window now that it has been installed.

The Chairman said he will speak to the Building Inspector.

Ms. Moore said there is also one window boarded up because dogs inside kept breaking it. She stated that she has a phone number for the owner of the building.

North Salem Central High School plaque presentation (cont.)

Ms. Thompson asked when a date will be decided upon for the presentation. She also thanked Steve LaRocca for his help in talking to St. James' Church about historic designation (*church is not interested*).

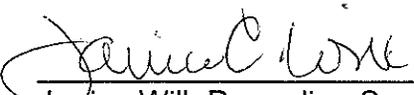
Chairman Tuoti said he will ask Bruce Buchholtz to work on a presentation date in September. WECS would like to have the presentation on a weekday morning so their students may be present, and available Town Board members will probably also attend.

Mr. LaRocca said Tim Purdy will be available to receive the plaque for the Purdy Homestead Stone Chamber at the same time.

Ms. Thompson said there is no money left in the HPC budget with which to purchase a plaque for the Peach Pond Stone chamber, so it may have to wait until next year.

Chairman Tuoti moved to adjourn at approximately 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Janice Will, Recording Secretary