

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
September 6, 2011
Delancey Hall**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gail Pantezzi
Steve LaRocca
Bruce Buchholtz, Deputy Chairman
Francis Tuoti, Chairman

MEMBERS ABSENT: David Talbot
Debby Moore
Marcia Rockwood

ALSO PRESENT: Susie Thompson, Town Historian
Janice Will, Recording Secretary

Chairman Francis Tuoti opened the meeting.

New Window on McKeel's Market building

The Chairman asked if anyone knew which of the windows on the McKeel's Market building is the new one, because he had been unable to tell.

Susie Thompson agreed that it was impossible to tell, and Gail Pantezzi said the Commission needs to get all the specifics.

Regarding a covered-up window in the building, the Chairman stated that as it is covered on the inside, the HPC really can't do anything about it.

Steve LaRocca said he thought that if what's done affects the appearance of the building, it would be appropriate to do something.

The Chairman noted that there was no building permit for the new window, and asked if one would be needed.

The secretary said that for a new window where there was none before, a building permit is required.

Ms. Pantezzi said a Certificate of Appropriateness is also called for. She suggested that either the Building Inspector (as enforcement officer for the HPC) could take some kind of action or Chairman Tuoti could contact the property-owner.

Chairman Tuoti said he will speak to Chris Brockmeyer to find out which one is the new window.

Steve LaRocca suggested that if the property-owner is contacted he could be told that the HPC would probably not have any objection to the window, given that no one can even tell which one it is.

Ms. Thompson stated that the owner is not a resident of the property. She suggested that in addition to asking Chris Brockmeyer which one is the new window, the property-owner should be asked about the front window that is covered with cardboard or something.

Chairman Tuoti asked who should contact the owner first; the Commission or the Building Inspector.

Bruce Buchholtz suggested they ask the Building Inspector to speak to the owner about the unauthorized construction, and Ms. Pantezzi agreed.

The Chairman said he will speak to Chris Brockmeyer and the Building Inspector and come up with a plan.

Mr. Buchholtz said he will go along to photograph the window.

Mike Bonelli drawings

Ms. Thompson said the newly-framed drawings are on display in the Library conference room where they will remain until they are taken up to the school.

Mr. Buchholtz stated that the drawings will be displayed in the school for one year and then it will be up to the Town Board to decide what to do with them. He added that all the drawings are labeled "On Loan".

Ms. Pantezzi said she called George Bovino to tell him the drawings are ready.

Mr. Buchholtz said he will deliver them. He said putting the drawings in the school and involving the students in writing captions should help to raise awareness of historic preservation.

Ms. Pantezzi asked if Mike Bonelli is aware that the drawings are currently displayed in the library, and Mr. Buchholtz replied that he called Mr. Bonelli to let him know.

Ms. Pantezzi informed the Commission that Mr. Bovino wants to hold a ceremony once the student-written captions for the drawings are ready.

Chairman Tuoti pointed out that there are 5 later landmarks that have not been drawn by Mr. Bonelli yet.

Ms. Thompson said there is no money to pay for more drawings this year.

The Chairman said maybe they could get just one done next year, and Mr. Buchholtz suggested requesting funds for a drawing in the 2013 budget.

Ms. Thompson stated that she received permission to transfer money from her budget to the HPC to pay for a plaque for Kay Spear's stone chamber, and she suggested the Commission vote to get a small plaque like that ordered for the Purdys Homestead Stone Chamber.

To ask David Talbot to order a bronze plaque for the Peach Pond Stone Chamber at 955 Peach Lake Road.

Motion by: Bruce Buchholtz

Seconded by: Steve LaRocca

All in favor.

Ms. Thompson suggested presenting both stone chamber plaques at the same time.

Plaque presentation at WECS on September 16

Ms. Pantezzi said she will be unable to attend the presentation at WECS.

Mr. Buchholtz stated that he and Chairman Tuoti will be going and Supervisor Warren Lucas plans to attend. He said the Historical Society has been informed of the date/time, -and Lisa Ganga of the Journal News will be there also.

Chairman Tuoti said he will offer a few remarks.

Ms. Thompson said the plaque is in her office, and the Chairman said he and Mr. Buchholtz would stop by to get it before the presentation.

Possible Purdys historic district

Mr. Buchholtz said the perimeter of the district should be pared down to avoid conflict with some property-owners who do not want to participate. He said he will get a draft written by the end of the year to recommend the district to the Town Board.

Mr. Buchholtz said he has not spoken to Michele Verhave recently, but she made it known in the past that she was opposed to the district. He commented that Friends of Karen on Titicus Road, while historically significant, can be cut out as they are not interested, and the professional building on Route 22 and the Swan Deli are not historically significant/can be eliminated from the district.

Ms. Thompson said she thinks the Swan Deli building is significant, and the Chairman added that it has been there at least since the 1930's.

Mr. LaRocca said he did not see the architectural significance of the building.

Mr. Buchholtz said the Lions Club building can also be skipped. Regarding the dam, he said the HPC could see what the DEP thinks about including it.

The Chairman said he thought further in-depth negotiations with the City should be avoided, as they are already dealing with them re Mills Road. He commented that he needs to be brought up to date by Amy Rosmarin on her progress with that project.

Mr. LaRocca said he thought the dam could stand alone, and Ms. Thompson pointed out that there is not much danger of it being torn down.

Chairman Tuoti agreed and said they should leave the dam out of the district.

Bus tour with Historical Society

Mr. Buchholtz stated that Cynthia Curtis seems to have everything lined up for this event, including narration on the bus by Debby Moore and flyers from the HPC to hand out.

Chairman Tuoti asked what will be done if Debby Moore is unable to do the narration.

Ms. Thompson said it is a problem; one may have plenty of knowledge but not be good at giving the talk/it takes a certain type of personality.

Mr. Buchholtz wondered if someone else could be asked to stand in for Ms. Moore if she is unable to participate, but it was agreed that it would be up to the Historical Society.

Ms. Thompson asked if everyone present will be available the day of the tour, reminding the others that the HPC agreed to help.

Ms. Pantezzi said she is not sure she will be in town.

Ms. Thompson said help will be needed with the lunch, etc.

Mr. Buchholtz said he will help.

Mr. LaRocca said Cynthia Curtis asked him to help with the presentation board, but it sounds like Mr. Buchholtz has provided photos to use.

Mr. Buchholtz said he sent photos of the Peach Pond Stone Chamber to John Vassak (Historical Society).

Mr. LaRocca said he thought Ms. Curtis wanted his help with photos of the last several HPC landmarks.

Mr. Buchholtz said the existing board stops with the Brockmeyer (Mahoney) house. He offered to ask the Bartsches (Purdys Schoolhouse) for photos, but there is no more room on the existing board/a new one would be needed.

Ms. Thompson said she thought the board included just a selection of historic landmarks/not all of them, so they do not need to worry about putting all the new ones on the board.

Ms. Thompson asked if Mr. Buchholtz wouldn't be going to a meeting of the Historical Society soon, and suggested he have a look at the existing presentation board then.

Mr. LaRocca asked Mr. Buchholtz to let him know if his help is needed for enlarging/mounting any photographs.

Mr. Buchholtz said he will see what Ms. Curtis wants to do.

Bloomer Road farmhouse

Ms. Thompson said the owners have just returned from a summer away, but she will call them (Lynn and Todd Burt) again soon.

Other

Mr. Buchholtz said Supervisor Lucas sent a hyperlink to a site about grants for historical purposes. Mr. Buchholtz suggested applying for grant money in 2012 for markers to delineate Rochambeau's march through North Salem.

Ms. Pantezzi said she would like to work on that project.

Ms. Thompson commented that the grant proposals are difficult to write, but Ms. Pantezzi reiterated her willingness to work on it.

Mills Road

Mr. LaRocca asked how this project is coming along, and the Chairman replied that Amy Rosmarin needs to attend an HPC meeting to bring them up to date.

Other

Ms. Thompson told the others about something called Megalithomania, a British group who will be in Glastonbury, CT in October and then will go on tours, including the Balanced Rock. Ms. Thompson said she will be involved as New England Antiquities will help Megalithomania with the tours.

Bruce Buchholtz said the Fire Department received a call recently to pump water out of the basement of an isolated farmhouse on Titicus Road that is right on the river, and he asked if the house is of historical significance. (*Property of Frank Selvaggi and William Shea*)

Ms. Pantezzi said it is.

Ms. Thompson said the farmhouse, along with the Kamenstein and Harris/Roach properties, are part of an area known as Mill Hollow.

Ms. Pantezzi commented that the farmhouse has been change a great deal.

Mr. LaRocca asked if there are remnants of a mill related to the property, but Mr. Buchholtz said he did not see that part of the property.

Ms. Pantezzi said she was not sure the house was ever a mill, but the Kamenstein house was.

Mr. LaRocca said all of Mill Hollow is of historical significance.

Ms. Pantezzi said the area used to be heavily polluted due to the presence of multiple mills. She stated that there was talk of putting a railroad spur in the area years ago, but she did not know why it was never done.

Chairman Tuoti said there are remnants of a railroad line to Danbury in other areas of Town. He stated that he wants to put something in the next Town newsletter to tell people about

what the HPC does and mention the 5 landmarks designated in the last year or so. The Chairman said he will write something up and run it by the Commission for comments.

Ms. Thompson thought it would be nice to include a small picture, perhaps of one of the landmarks.

Mr. LaRocca suggested that the Chairman mention the display of the Mike Bonelli drawings in the school.

It was agreed to put off approving the June and August (and September) meeting minutes at the October meeting.

Mr. Buchholtz moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Janice Will, Recording Secretary