

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
June 4, 2013
Delancey Hall**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Debby Moore
John Malone
Linda Gracie
Marcia Rockwood
Steve LaRocca
Francis Tuoti, Chairman

MEMBER ABSENT: Gail Pantezzi

ALSO PRESENT: Janice Will, Recording Secretary

Chairman Francis Tuoti opened the meeting, noting that there were several months' worth of meeting minutes to approve.

To approve the minutes of the October 2, 2012, November 15, 2012, March 19, 2013 and April 2, 2013 minutes as submitted.

Motion by: John Malone

Seconded by: Linda Gracie

All in favor.

The Farmer and the Fish

The members discussed the porch floor of the restaurant in the Purdy Homestead. It was noted that a past Certificate of Appropriateness called for the floor to be painted gray, but the new porch floor is mahogany and the proprietors would prefer not to paint it.

Chairman Tuoti said he spoke to Robert Treadway (representative of Ed Taylor, restaurant proprietor) about the porch floor, and he could see no reason to paint it.

There was general agreement that it would be better to leave the floor unpainted.

To add a note to the file of the Certificate of Appropriateness, approved on December 6, 2011, stating that the HPC is in agreement that the mahogany floor of the front porch of the Purdy Homestead may be left unpainted.

Motion by: Debby Moore

Seconded by: John Malone

All in favor.

Other: 955 Peach Lake Road

The Chairman stated that he received a phone call from Robert Young, the new owner of 955 Peach Lake Road (formerly owned by Kay Spear/location of the Peach Pond Stone Chamber). Mr. Young expressed interest in discussing the stone chamber on the property, and Chairman Tuoti offered to pass along some information.

The secretary will send Mr. Young a copy of the landmark designation file, historic designation guidelines and the report on stone chambers, as well as providing contact information for the Town Historian (Susie Thompson), and information about the North Salem Historical Society. The Chairman will provide a brief cover note.

Other-Mills Road

Chairman Tuoti said Amy Rosmarin has forwarded to him e-mails to/from Paul Lenz of the DEP. The DEP has said they would prefer to keep the boundary of a historically-designated Mills Road at the existing right-of-way (HPC wanted boundary back to existing stone walls). They also said they would "endeavor to consult with the Town" if the DEP wanted to perform some sort of work or repair. Ms. Rosmarin said Mr. Lenz mentioned that he thought a land-use permit could be set up to enable the Town to maintain the stone walls around the reservoir.

The Chairman commented that the right to maintain/repair the walls might be good as long as the Town is not obligated to do so.

Ms. Gracie agreed, saying that responsibility for maintaining the walls could become very expensive.

Chairman Tuoti said Ms. Rosmarin is looking into the implications of the land-use permit to see if the Town should do it or not.

Ms. Moore asked if the right-of-way is the road, and the Chairman replied that it is.

Ms. Moore asked if what the HPC is doing is to try and protect the road so the Town would have some control over attempts to straighten or widen it, and the Chairman said she was correct.

Marcia Rockwood commented that it would be wonderful to see the stone walls taken care of/maybe someone in Town could help.

Ms. Moore said she would like to know how the land-use permit would work/hoped it would be a simple process so the walls may be protected.

Chairman Tuoti thought the land-use permit would be in effect as soon as an agreement was reached. He said he will call Ms. Rosmarin re the HPC's interest in being permitted to fix the walls for historical and/or aesthetic reasons. He noted that she has done a great deal of work in pursuit of the historic designation of Mills Road.

Mile-Markers

Ms. Gracie said she has begun to prepare an application for historic designation of the three mile-markers in Town. She mentioned that when visiting a friend recently, she saw a booklet with color photographs of all the mile-markers the author could locate from southern Westchester through Connecticut. Ms. Gracie looked into obtaining a copy of the booklet, but it was self-published/produced in a limited quantity, although more may be made available in the future. She read the descriptive text she plans to include in the application and then asked if the others thought it was sufficient.

The Chairman suggested including the mile-marker booklet or at least referring to it if it is not available to be included.

Mr. LaRocca said it would be interesting to add the miles to the narrative of the application.

Ms. Rockwood asked how the markers would be designated.

Ms. Gracie explained that it was thought better not to put signs or markers at the sites because it could draw undesirable attention to them, but the HPC could protect them with an historic designation.

Ms. Moore asked who owns the markers.

Ms. Gracie replied that the Town owns the one on Dingle Ridge Road, and the State owns the other 2.

Chairman Tuoti thought it would be interesting to locate the mile-markers on a map of the Town, and Ms. Gracie agreed to do that.

Ms. Gracie said the markers were originally placed for the postal service to help them determine what rates should be charged for mail delivery. Later on, they also marked a stage coach route and helped coach passengers note the progress of their journeys.

Steve LaRocca asked if the Historical Society has any information that could be added.

Ms. Gracie said Susie Thompson gave her a Historical Society bulletin about the markers. She went on to say that people document the markers as a hobby, making it hard to tell what information is correct. Ms. Gracie said some mile-markers have been stolen over the years.

The Chairman thanked Ms. Gracie for her efforts, and she noted that Mr. Malone has helped her with it.

Mr. LaRocca asked what the HPC should do about ownership of the markers/notifying the owners of the HPC's wish to designate them.

Ms. Gracie said she thought the HPC had considered just recognizing the markers but not actually designating them historic landmarks, in part because 2 of them are owned by the State. She asked who would know who needs to be informed at the State level.

It was noted that historic landmarks are dealt with by the State Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

Cemeteries

Chairman Tuoti said it is important to hear from Highway Superintendent, Ward Hannaburgh who was not available to attend the meeting.

Ms. Gracie said she thinks the HPC needs more information before deciding to pursue historic designation of cemeteries in Town.

Ms. Moore stated that there are different classes of cemetery, and she reminded the others of a talk on cemeteries to be held at the library on October 6.

Other

Ms. Moore stated that Susie Thompson has recommended historic designation of the property known as "Apple Hill" (140 Titicus Road), noting that the owners of this Nineteenth Century property are interested.

Chairman Tuoti asked Ms. Moore to ask Ms. Thompson to pursue this with the full support of the Historic Preservation Commission. He added that the HPC has the survey of potential landmarks that they conducted for the Comprehensive Plan Committee, which they can refer to if they ever want ideas for historic designation.

Ms. Gracie asked if anyone ever looked into the little Catholic chapel on Titicus Road, adding that she heard the property will soon be for sale.

It was noted that the next scheduled HPC meeting is to be held on July 2.

The Chairman thanked the HPC for their prayers, kind thoughts and cards received while he was recovering from surgery. He said he thought highly of all the staff at Danbury Hospital.

To adjourn at approximately 6 pm.

Motion by: Debby Moore.

All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Janice Will, Recording Secretary