

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
August 6, 2013
Delancey Hall**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Debby Moore
John Malone
Linda Gracie
Francis Tuoti, Chairman

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gail Pantezzi
Marcia Rockwood
Steve LaRocca

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

Chairman Francis Tuoti opened the meeting.

National Park Service Display/Rochambeau March

Susie Thompson stated that the NPS still projects delivery by winter 2014. When she mentioned that the HPC has not received a draft of the contents or a contract for the Town Supervisor to sign, she was assured that those things will be sent closer to the completion date in 2014.

Apple Hill/140 Titicus Road

Ms. Thompson showed the HPC numerous maps and an old photograph that might or might not be of the original house. She also passed around a realtor's brochure with photographs of the house/interior as it is now. Ms. Thompson said she would like to put off photographing the house until after the owners have it freshly-painted in white (dark gray now). Referring to a history of the property that she sent to all the HPC members, Ms. Thompson remarked that it was hard to tell what was happening at times. She said that Ruth Fischbach (current resident with husband, Gerald) provided information, adding that Mrs. Fischbach's parents lived in the house for a long time.

Linda Gracie said she thought it was very nice that the Fischbachs now own the house that Mrs. Fischbach grew up and was married in.

Ms. Thompson said she thinks they may return to live in the house when they retire. She asked the HPC if they want to pursue historic designation of the property, and what other information they would like to have. She noted that the Fischbachs are having a lot of repairs and renovations done now. Ms. Thompson asked what the HPC would like to do about including some kind of perimeter and/or the large barn (now apartment and office).

Chairman Tuoti asked how old the barn is.

Ms. Thompson pointed it out on an 1889 map, adding that the barn has been changed and worked on a lot over time. She thought she should ask the Fischbachs what they would prefer to have included in the designation.

The Chairman commented that a future owner could tear down the barns if they were not historic landmarks.

Ms. Thompson stated that the Fischbachs are currently in Europe. When they return, she will suggest they read the historic preservation law carefully and decide how much of the property they want to include in any designation. She said she hopes the Fischbachs will want to include the 2 barns.

Ms. Gracie asked how perimeters are usually defined.

Ms. Thompson said it has not been consistent, but a perimeter should be specific.

Ms. Gracie asked if the HPC might ask the Fischbachs to include all the old buildings on the property, and Chairman Tuoti said he thought they should do so.

Ms. Thompson said she has not been inside the big barn, but it is definitely old/they can look in the basement for further clues about its age.

Chairman Tuoti stated that Ms. Thompson has done an excellent job researching the house/property.

Ms. Thompson proposed calling it the Chloe and Charles Bloomer House, explaining that although Mrs. Bloomer's father, Thomas Brown, was the original owner of the property, it seems like the Bloomers built the house.

Ms. Gracie said she found it interesting that the property (originally on both sides of Titicus Road) was on a road that connected to Bogtown Road before the reservoir went in. She added that the information available about Apple Hill will be helpful in researching other historic properties in the future.

Chairman Tuoti suggested that, if the HPC does designate the house an historic landmark, they make a presentation to the Historical Society.

Commenting that the Fischbachs would be pleased to have the house included in an historic house tour, Ms. Thompson said perhaps the HPC could make the presentation there.

John Malone stated that he found the history of the house/property interesting and worth pursuing.

Ms. Thompson said she will ask what the Fischbachs want to include in the designation and tell them what the HPC would like to see included, as well as asking them to read the historic preservation law.

Ms. Gracie said she would like the application to include photographs of the other old buildings on the property.

Cemeteries

Ms. Thompson explained that Highway Superintendent, Ward Hannaburgh, was not available to attend the meeting. She said she did speak to Doug Bleakley, who handles the cemetery maintenance in Town. He said he couldn't think of a reason not to have the cemeteries designated historic landmarks, but neither did he think it would help. Ms. Thompson said she thought the designation would make the cemeteries eligible for grant funds for care and maintenance. She further stated that proper care and restoration have to be learned.

Chairman Tuoti commented that toppled gravestones probably need footings.

Ms. Thompson said no one in the HPC is currently qualified to do any cemetery restoration work; maybe a Member can take a course of some kind. She added that more research is needed.

John Malone asked what other Towns do about their old cemeteries.

Ms. Thompson stated that Pound Ridge had theirs designated, and they found it did not really change anything. She thought the HPC would have to do it with the Historical Society because they contributed the cemetery signs, and the accuracy of the signs should be checked/the signs updated.

Ms. Gracie remarked that Pound Ridge has a lot of very small family cemeteries,

Ms. Thompson thought North Salem probably used to have more, but they are gone now.

Ms. Gracie said there are 2 large gravestones, lying flat, in front of the cottage on her property (the Keeler Homestead). She guessed they might have been replaced with the small, flat type of markers the Keeler family has been using for burials in Ivandell Cemetery in Somers.

Ms. Thompson said there had been a little cemetery on Keeler Lane that was probably a church cemetery.

Ms. Gracie said she would like to see the HPC's list of designated landmarks expand, and it would be nice to recognize the cemeteries.

Ms. Thompson stated that the Town will not budget additional funds for the cemeteries, but there is the possibility of grant money.

Debby Moore said a cemetery on Long Island received grant money that she thought came from the State.

Ms. Thompson said people in Bedford will be able to help the HPC with information about grants.

The Chairman noted that to make any improvements in the cemeteries would require a Certificate of Appropriateness application once they are designated landmarks.

Ms. Thompson commented that the Highway Department is doing a good job of taking care of the cemetery grounds, which is a lot of work. She said she will write up an application for historic designation and consult Patrick Raftery of the Westchester County Historical Society.

Ms. Gracie suggested that all HPC members go around and take a good look at the Town's cemeteries.

Ms. Thompson agreed that it is important for the HPC to see the cemeteries.

Mile-Markers

Ms. Gracie said she met with Mr. Malone on this subject, and she passed around a booklet on the County mile-markers from White Plains to Brewster. She said Mr. Malone raised the point of what the HPC actually wants to do about the mile-markers, and she thought perhaps they just want to acknowledge them.

Ms. Thompson said their historical significant should be acknowledged.

Mr. Malone said it seems that designation of the markers is not usually done by State or Federal agencies. He stated that only the Town of Cortlandt has designated theirs, and Poughkeepsie has a record in the form of photographs and a locator map, but he has found that State and Federal designations are all of buildings.

Ms. Thompson stated that if North Salem designates its mile-markers, the information will be forwarded to the State for their files. She added that such a designation might be considered in the event that the State wanted to widen one of the roads on which the markers are located. She also said that the mile-markers in North Salem are for the New York-Vermont Post Road, and not the Boston Post Road. She went on to say that the markers were originally plain sandstone; the enclosures were added later by the County to protect them.

Ms. Gracie she will try to find out what the route was and where the road ends in Vermont.

Ms. Thompson said examination of old Putnam and Dutchess County maps would be helpful, and Ms. Gracie said she will look into that.

Mr. Malone asked what else, if anything, the HPC would expect other than the Town designating the mile-markers and informing the State about their designation.

Ms. Gracie said the HPC had agreed in the past that it would be best not to draw too much attention to the mile-markers; they will simply be part of the inventory of historically-designated sites in Town.

Ms. Thompson said historic designation should help to protect them.

Ms. Gracie said she will do further research and attempt to be more specific about why the mile-markers are significant/how the HPC wants to acknowledge them.

Mills Road

Chairman Tuoti said the DEP wants the historic designation limited to the right-of-way and does not want their stone walls included. The reason given was that the DEP wants to be able to make repairs to the walls or work on boat entrances when and as they wish. The Chairman said he would like an agreement that states North Salem may repair the walls if they want to. He explained that Amy Rosmarin has been working with Roland Baroni on a land-use permit from the DEP which would allow repair of the stone wall right across the street from Town Hall. The Chairman remarked that any agreement will be on the DEP's terms, but it is better than nothing. He added that Amy Rosmarin has done a good job and things are moving along, even if historic designation of Mills Road only includes the right-of-way.

Other

Ms. Thompson informed the HPC that Maria Hlushko, assistant to the Supervisor, will be updating the Town website. She recommended that the HPC look over their section and see what might be added and suggested providing more detail about the Town's landmarks.

Ms. Thompson also suggested the HPC consider just having photographs taken of future landmarks, as the drawings are quite expensive and there is no place to display them all.

Mr. Malone commented that the Town of Poughkeepsie has 60 pages of photographs on their website.

Approval of June 4 meeting minutes

Motion by: Linda Gracie

Seconded by: John Malone

All in favor.

Next meeting: Tuesday September 3

To adjourn at 6 pm.

Motion by: Debby Moore

All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Janice Will, Recording Secretary