

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
October 1, 2013
Delancey Hall**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Debby Moore
John Malone
Gail Pantezzi
Steve LaRocca
Francis Tuoti, Chairman

MEMBERS ABSENT: Linda Gracie
Marcia Rockwood

ALSO PRESENT: Bruce Buchholtz, Town Board Member
Susie Thompson, Town Historian
Janice Will, Recording Secretary

Chairman Francis Tuoti opened the meeting.

Additional Air-time on Channel 18 for North Salem

The Chairman invited Bruce Buchholtz to tell the HPC members about this.

Mr. Buchholtz said the Town is the beneficiary of additional air time on this public access television channel, adding that Supervisor Warren Lucas could supply technical details. Mr. Buchholtz said he has watched some of the Lewisboro programming on Channel 20, and they have been offering interviews, information about cemeteries, historical tours, etc. He told the HPC that George Bovino, Assistant School Principal, has said the Historic Preservation Commission may ask the high school cinema students for help with production and video work on things they would like to have run on Channel 20. Mr. Buchholtz said the television time could be used to promote North Salem's historic landmarks if that is what the HPC wants, and he suggested that every blue application for historic landmark designation is a basis for a script.

Chairman Tuoti commented that they could do something about Rochambeau's march through North Salem.

Susie Thompson asked who from the HPC will work on this project.

Gail Pantezzi said she would be interested in working on it.

Chairman Tuoti said he will work on it too, and he offered to speak on camera.

Mr. Buchholtz suggested everyone think about it.

Chairman Tuoti asked how much time per segment would be provided.

Mr. Buchholtz said the time could be used any way; for example, in 10-minute or half-hour segments.

Supervisor Lucas entered the conference room and explained that the Town's Cablevision franchise is being re-done, and they will have their own station/ broadcasting ability next June in the new court building.

Mr. Buchholtz said the high school facilities include green screen technology, and Mr. Bovino has offered to cooperate with the HPC. He added that it will be a good experience for the students also.

Ms. Pantezzi suggested that either she or Chairman Tuoti speak to Mr. Bovino.

Ms. Thompson suggested involving the Historical Society in the project.

The Chairman agreed, adding that the Historical Society has a lot of information, including audio tapes of presentations and interviews.

Mr. Buchholtz commented that he had not called Lewisboro, but they would certainly be the closest model for North Salem. He added that their programming is actually quite good, and they would probably also be helpful regarding use of technology.

Chairman Tuoti wondered if someone from Lewisboro might be willing to come to a HPC meeting and tell them how they produce their television programs.

Ms. Thompson offered to ask Maureen Koehl, Lewisboro Town Historian, about the television programs.

Chairman Tuoti said he would like to hear from Lewisboro about their experience first, and then get in touch with George Bovino. He also suggested asking the Historical Society about their past bulletins.

John Malone commented that a song about North Salem that a resident put into a video shown on YouTube might be good to use.

Susie Thompson said the song will be incorporated into an upcoming film.

Debby Moore explained that there was a reunion of graduates of Purdys Central High School classes from the 1930's to 1965, and the graduates made a film about the Town and the school.

Ms. Thompson said the film is to be shown on October 11 (6:30 and 7:30 pm) at Westchester Exceptional Children's School, and copies have been promised. She added that the film incorporated some parts of an old 1940 Fred Warner film.

Mr. Buchholtz said it is important that enough people are willing to work on the television project.

Ms. Thompson said she envisioned 1 or 2 people from the HPC, 1 or 2 from the Historical Society and maybe some students, so it will be a Town presentation and not specifically an HPC program. She added that other Town groups like Recreation should be able to put programming on also.

Mr. Malone asked if the high school has television broadcast capability.

Mr. Buchholtz said they do not, but they have a studio and can format a program. He also said Lewisboro should be helpful regarding what kind of equipment is needed. Mr. Malone remarked that some students would probably love to be on-air.

Mr. Buchholtz asked the HPC to let him know what he can do to help.

Action Items/Follow-up

- Susie Thompson to call Lewisboro Town Historian and e-mail HPC.
- Gail Pantezzi to contact George Bovino to set up a meeting with him and some others from the school, and also to include Peter Bliss, President of the Historical Society. Inform HPC via e-mail.
- Debby Moore to tell Historical Society about air-time/working with HPC at their next meeting.

Other-Town Website

Ms. Thompson said Maria Hlushko, assistant to the Town Supervisor, has offered to post changes/updates to the Town website. Ms. Thompson remarked that the HPC section currently just lists the Town's historic landmarks and displays the drawings. She suggested they might feature details about one of the Town's historic landmarks on the HPC main page and change it occasionally.

Ms. Pantezzi asked if the HPC page is up-to-date now.

No one seemed to know, although Ms. Thompson thought the list of landmarks was updated.

Action Item/Follow-up

HPC members to look at existing HPC section on Town website and be prepared to discuss changes/additions at November meeting.

Approval of August 6 Meeting Minutes

Motion by: *John Malone*
Seconded by: *Debby Moore*
All in favor.

Historic Designation of Mills Road

Chairman Tuoti said Amy Rosmarin continues to work on this, and it is moving forward. He noted that working with New York City is slow-going and added that Ms. Rosmarin is doing a good job. The Chairman explained that Ms. Rosmarin is trying to get an agreement with the City to allow the Town to take care of the stone walls on DEP property around the reservoir, but it takes time.

Ms. Pantezzi asked why the City would be averse to the Town taking care of the walls.

Chairman Tuoti didn't know. He suggested that possibly they fear liability in the event of injuries, adding that lawyers are always extremely cautious.

Ms. Pantezzi asked if the City was only agreeable to historic designation of the road bed of Mills Road, and Chairman Tuoti said she was correct/they do not want to be restricted.

Ms. Pantezzi asked what that would mean.

Ms. Thompson pointed out that it would allow the HPC to designate Mills Road, and the Chairman added that it would be the right-of-way that would be designated.

Mr. Malone asked if the City wanted to add bike lanes for example, wouldn't they then need the Town's approval.

Ms. Moore said if the City wanted to widen the road or paint lines on it, it would help the Town maintain some kind of control over the character of the road.

Ms. Thompson said Ms. Rosmarin is working on what the boundaries will be/it is not set yet.

Ms. Moore said the City had not been agreeable about including the stone walls.

The Chairman explained that if they want to add water access, etc. they don't want to need the Town's approval.

Other – Traffic/Parking Concerns

Ms. Moore said she has concerns about The Commons at Purdys, a proposed development of housing units on the land adjacent to Salem/Waterview Hills. She said there is also talk that the MTA wants to expand the parking at the Purdys train station to accommodate 1000 cars with a two-tiered facility. She explained that she felt this would encourage many more Connecticut commuters to drive through North Salem and Purdys. Ms. Moore said the MTA is also interested in purchasing the former St. Joseph's Church to use the land for parking in Croton Falls. She said she was concerned about both out-of-state commuters and the residents of 180 apartments adding traffic.

Ms. Thompson said she did not think The Commons at Purdys proposal was open for public comment yet, but Ms. Moore said an e-mail she saw was about submitting public comment.

Follow-up

Chairman Tuoti asked Ms. Thompson to ask Cynthia Curtis if there is something the HPC should do. If a response is needed, he will write a letter.

Bonelli Drawings

Ms. Pantezzi stated that the drawings have been re-hung at the high school by Kate Bartsch, who is a gallery curator. She added that Supervisor Lucas would like to have the drawings hung in the new court building when it is finished.

Chairman Tuoti said he personally likes having the drawings displayed in the school, but they can be moved if that is what the Supervisor wants.

Cemeteries

Ms. Thompson said she had nothing new to report. She asked that everybody make an effort to visit the cemeteries in Town, and reminded them that Patrick Raftery will be speaking about historic cemeteries at the library on Sunday at 4 pm.

Ms. Pantezzi commented that re-setting or repairing gravestones should not call for a Certificate of Appropriateness, as those are maintenance activities.

Ms. Thompson said the main reason to designate all the cemeteries would be eligibility for grant money. She said she thought it was worth doing, but all the HPC members should look into it carefully first. Ms. Thompson added that the Highway Department does a good job of taking care of the cemeteries, but money is needed for repairs.

Ms. Pantezzi asked if there is an inventory of all the gravestones in the cemeteries.

Ms. Moore said Ben Katz made a complete inventory on burial grounds of North Salem.

Ms. Thompson noted that June and Peach Pond cemeteries still have burials, so more recent ones would not be part of the inventory.

Ms. Pantezzi said the inventory should be complete up to about 1970. She asked if there are photographs of every marker.

Ms. Moore said there is no photographic inventory.

Ms. Thompson said Dick Yakman (former Town Historian) photographed veterans' graves in Town, and she thought she had those photos.

Ms. Pantezzi thought it would be important to have photos as a record, because the engraving on tombstones wears away with time.

It was agreed that a full inventory of photographs would be good, but it would also be a big project for someone to undertake.

Steve LaRocca commented that Lewisboro had a TV program about their cemeteries, and it was a great commentary.

Chairman Tuoti asked what the HPC should do next.

Ms. Thompson said they could designate all the cemeteries at once, now that the Town owns all of them. She added that there is a lot of information in the files.

Ms. Pantezzi said a blue application needs to be filled out.

Ms. Thompson encouraged the other to ask questions at the Patrick Raftery presentation. She also said she thought each cemetery will need its own blue form filled out.

Chairman Tuoti suggested that if the gravestone photographs are to be taken, a standard grid should be worked up so all the photographs will be taken the same way.

Ms. Pantezzi said that would be a good thing to ask Mr. Raftery about. She added that she did not think all the gravestone photos will be needed for the blue applications/pictures of the cemeteries should suffice.

Ms. Thompson said she can work on the project, but she is too busy at present/it will have to wait.

Ms. Moore asked about the Pound Ridge cemetery designations, and Ms. Thompson responded that they felt it was nice but nothing has really changed.

Mr. LaRocca said conservation guidelines should be given some consideration/the HPC should think about what they want to protect.

Ms. Thompson asked if Mr. Malone would have time to do some on-line research into what kind of conservation guidelines have been employed in other cemetery designations.

Mr. LaRocca said each cemetery will need some kind of perimeter protection.

Ms. Thompson noted that some recent burials in one of the still-active cemeteries have resulted in placement of stuffed animals, pinwheels, etc., so it would seem there are no rules limiting this kind of thing.

Ms. Pantezzi said rules could be put in place for future gravesites, but the Chairman wondered if it would be within the jurisdiction of the HPC.

Ms. Thompson said they need to know that sort of thing before they designate the cemeteries. She said she will try to find time to do some research if Mr. Malone will also help, and he said he will.

Ms. Moore said she has some research information pertaining to cemeteries.

Ms. Thompson asked the HPC to agree that the cemeteries are to be designated, but not until next year.

Ms. Moore asked if they should aim for spring.

Ms. Thompson noted that winter is a good time to take photographs.

Follow-Up

- HPC members to make effort to visit Town cemeteries/observe conditions and work up thoughts/recommendations.
- Ms. Thompson and Mr. Malone to research other cemetery designations.

New York State Certified Local Government Program

The Chairman noted that the HPC had dropped off work on getting North Salem into this program, and he asked what the benefit would be.

Ms. Thompson said they would be eligible for more grants.

Chairman Tuoti remembered that work toward the CLG became tangled up in the proposed Purdys Historic District, which seems to be a dead issue now. He suggested the HPC return to work on the CLG program.

Ms. Pantezzi said the local law required some changes for inclusion.

Ms. Thompson said they should make sure the requirements haven't changed since the HPC first considered the program.

Follow-up

Chairman Tuoti to call or e-mail Julian Adams about any changes in the CLG program.

Other-Peach Pond Stone Chamber Photos

Ms. Pantezzi stated that she took some photographs of the Peach Pond Stone Chamber since the new property-owner has tidied it up some and also a few of the school display of the Bonelli drawings.

The secretary will print the photos for the files, put the photo disc in the file, and keep the photos in the computer files.

Other – Purdy Homestead Stone Chamber Plaque

Ms. Thompson said Steve LaRocca sent around a photograph of the Purdy Homestead Stone Chamber with the plaque temporarily placed on a large rock in front of the chamber so everyone can see how it looks. She wondered if it wouldn't look better affixed onto the chamber itself.

Mr. LaRocca said it is already epoxied onto the big stone which was moved to the site for this purpose.

Chairman Tuoti asked if the stone should be set with some concrete so no one will be able to move it, and Mr. LaRocca thought so.

Ms. Thompson said Tim Purdy had asked Mr. LaRocca about a ceremony to officially mark the designation of the chamber, but she thinks it would be better not to have one/not draw attention to the chamber.

Ms. Moore agreed, saying that people who are interested in historic landmarks in Town can find out about the stone chamber.

Ms. Thompson asked if Mr. Purdy really seems to want to mark the occasion, but Mr. LaRocca said he will explain the HPC's concerns to him.

Other-Keeler Lane Bridge

Ms. Pantezzi stated that she sent around photos of the bridge. She explained that it was re-done in 1988, but there are cracks in the mortar on top of the stones now. Ms. Pantezzi said the Highway Department should look into the situation.

Other-Cable Barn

Ms. Pantezzi said the needed repairs were never done, and a new wage law obligating municipalities to use union workers would now make the work prohibitively expensive. Similarly, estimates for painting and lead abatement at Lobdell House were very high. She said she wondered how municipally-owned historic landmarks can ever be taken care of.

Ms. Moore remarked that Lewisboro has a Maintenance Department that would be responsible for a lot of that kind of work.

NPS Display re Rochambeau's March

Ms. Thompson offered to order the waterproof brochure boxes from Pannier. The boxes will be affixed to the display, and Ms. Thompson said she will endeavor to keep them filled with brochures. At a cost of a little over \$200, Ms. Thompson said the boxes could be paid for from the HPC budget or the Historian's.

To order 2 brochure boxes to be paid for with funds from the 2013 HPC budget:

Motion by: Debby Moore

Seconded by: Chairman Tuoti

Other – Historic Landmark Designation of Apple Hill/Bloomer House

Mr. LaRocca asked if the public hearing of the application for landmark designation of Apple Hill will be part of the next HPC meeting.

Ms. Thompson said she thinks she will have the application ready by then; the research is done/the paperwork needs to be filled out. She said the Fischbachs (property-owners) want to include the house and the root cellar but not the barns. Ms. Thompson said she was disinclined to press them about it and would go along with including the house with some kind of perimeter around it and the root cellar.

Ms. Pantezzi suggested asking the Fischbachs what kind of perimeter they want.

Mr. LaRocca asked if the HPC should make a field visit.

Ms. Thompson said that if people are interested, she will try to arrange a date/time with the Fischbachs .

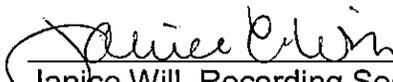
Next Meeting: November 5

To adjourn at 6:20 pm:

Motion by: Gail Pantezzi

All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Janice Will, Recording Secretary