

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 4, 2014  
Delancey Hall**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Debby Moore  
Gail Pantezzi  
John Malone  
Marcia Rockwood  
Francis Tuoti, Chairman

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Linda Gracie  
Steve LaRocca

**ALSO PRESENT:** Janice Will, Recording Secretary

Chairman Francis Tuoti opened the meeting.

The minutes of the January 7, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved.

*(Susie Thompson, Town Historian, could not attend the meeting but sent the Chairman an e-mail of updates on things she has been working on.)*

HPC article for Town Newsletter

The Chairman noted that Susie Thompson prepared a draft submission for the spring Town newsletter, including mention of the historic designation of the 3 mile-markers in Town and the Bloomer House on Titicus Road. Chairman Tuoti said he thought the write-up was nice, and Ms. Thompson will send the latest draft around to the HPC members. He added that the HPC should try to get something included in every Town newsletter.

Gail Pantezzi said an ad for help with production of programming for the Town's public access television channel should go in the newsletter, too.

Bloomer House plaque presentation

Chairman Tuoti noted from Ms. Thompson's e-mail that the owners of the Bloomer House (Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Fischbach) would like to have the presentation in the spring.

Cell Tower/101 Bloomer Road

The Chairman commented that he thought the HPC had decided they had no particular concerns about this project, as the proposed location for the tower is not near any historic landmarks. He stated that there will be a balloon test on March 22 if anyone is interested.

Mills Road update

Chairman Tuoti said he had a phone call from Amy Rosmarin who told him she has started getting signatures on the petition to have the road landmarked, and she hopes to have enough by the April HPC meeting. The Chairman said there are approximately 26 houses on the upper/older section of the road, of which 51% must support the proposed historic designation. He reminded the others that the HPC decided to pursue historic designation of

the old part of Mills Road first, and then try to designate the lower (western) section in the future.

#### Croton Falls Presbyterian Church

Marcia Rockwood said Susie Thompson gave her some material regarding the history of the church, and she remarked that it is confusing. Handing out copies of a write-up she prepared, Ms. Rockwood explained that the church was built in 2 locations in North Salem and at one address in Croton Falls from which it had to be relocated (to Route 22) when New York City bought the property adjoining the Croton River for the reservoir project. The Croton Falls church was built when local Presbyterians split into 2 separate groups (Old School and New School). Later, the small Croton Falls Presbyterian Church was part of a federation with the Baptist Church for 36 years, reopening on its own in 1958 with 47 members.

Ms. Rockwood said she plans to consult Steve LaRocca to determine if the church is architecturally significant enough to warrant historic designation. Ms. Rockwood added that Ms. Thompson has another book on the subject, so she (Ms. Rockwood) intends to try and find out what happened to the Presbyterian church that was constructed near St. James Church on Titicus Road.

Chairman Tuoti thanked Ms. Rockwood for her work.

Debby Moore said she will check to see if the Historical Society has anything that might be helpful.

#### Cemeteries

The Chairman said Ms. Thompson had pointed out that she cannot really look into the local cemeteries until the snow melts.

#### NPS Display

Chairman Tuoti said Ms. Thompson still hopes to see the ships removed from the artwork/ replaced by Delancey Hall and people. Phil Correll at NPS will send Ms. Thompson a copy of the final drawing when he receives it.

Ms. Pantezzi asked if the display is still anticipated to be ready in August.

The Chairman replied that Ms. Thompson said the company that is making the frames has been asked to have them completed by August, so she hopes to see the display arrive in early fall.

Chairman Tuoti said Ms. Thompson's e-mail also included mention of hosting a speaker for a joint presentation (Historical Society and the Library) in the fall. Jini Jones Vail is a Rochambeau authority, so Ms. Thompson said she would like to see a dedication of the NPS display followed by a presentation by Ms. Vail.

#### NYS Certified Local Government Program

The Chairman remarked that the HPC lost sight of this pursuit when they were working on a possible Purdys historic district. He said he thought he remembered that a draft of changes to the local law had been written.

Ms. Moore stated that someone said changing the local law is very expensive, but she thinks Supervisor Warren Lucas would support it.

The Chairman said he wrote to Julian Adams (NYS CLG coordinator) to ask him what the HPC should do.

Ms. Pantezzi commented that the existing local law was amended once to abide by the State model, so she did not see why it would need to be changed.

Chairman Tuoti said he wrote to Mr. Adams and asked him what they need to do to get back on track.

Ms. Moore said she would still like to see Purdys dedicated.

Ms. Pantezzi said they had gone around and around, trying to decide what the district would be comprised of (skip some properties or not).

The Chairman remembered that someone in Purdys did not want to be included.

Ms. Moore said the district could be designated any way, but Ms. Pantezzi pointed out that the Town Board would probably not support that kind of designation.

Ms. Pantezzi asked Ms. Moore to draw up a list of people in Purdys she thinks would and would not approve.

Chairman Tuoti said he asked Mr. Adams to send the HPC any changes in NYS historic preservation law.

#### Use of Channel 18

Ms. Pantezzi handed out copies of a report on her talk with the NS Middle/High School Media Chairman, Cynthia Sandler, and (briefly) a 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Kerry McLeary, about coming up with a student video project with an historical element. Ms. McLeary has about 50 students.

Ms. Pantezzi said she offered several suggestions to consider for a 7<sup>th</sup> grade video/history project and added that other HPC members may have more ideas that she could add. She said she told Ms. Sandler about the creation of the booklet "When Our Town was Young" by 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> graders in the 1940's. Ms. Pantezzi said she personally would love to see the play "Small Town Life" produced again by the High School. She stated that she will hear from Ms. Sandler about projects Ms. McLeary is interested in.

Ms. Pantezzi said she also wrote a quick draft of an ad for someone to head up any television/video project (copies handed out), and she asked Henry Wolf about wording such an advertisement. She stated that she also asked Mr. Wolf about funding, and Mr. Wolf told her that Cablevision pays the Town of Lewisboro a franchise fee of \$260,000 per year for allowing access to Lewisboro households, and he is paid for his work as special program producer out of this fee.

Ms. Moore remarked that North Salem was the first town in the area to get Cablevision. Ms. Pantezzi said that when she spoke to Mr. Wolf last fall, he described the arrangement as one whereby he was paid a stipend by Cablevision/never said the word "franchise". When she spoke to Supervisor Lucas about funding video projects, he said there was no money available. The Supervisor called the Lewisboro town supervisor who told him the money for the programming comes out of the town budget/did not mention the Cablevision franchise. Ms. Pantezzi was already aware that there is no money in the North Salem budget for such a project, and she figured the HPC would have to look for another way to get funding. Today while she was asking Mr. Wolf about how to write the ad/what words to use, the issue of funding came up again, and he described the franchise paid to Lewisboro by Cablevision. He then spoke to someone in Finance in Lewisboro, who explained that Cablevision pays the franchise to the Town quarterly, and the Town pays Mr. Wolf from its budget. Ms. Pantezzi said she intends to bring the subject up with Supervisor Lucas again now that she understands the Lewisboro arrangement.

Commenting that there is no point in placing the ad until the HPC knows how a media/television producer will be paid, Chairman Tuoti asked if Mr. Wolf would consider working for North Salem as well.

Ms. Pantezzi said she asked Mr. Wolf about that, and his response was that he would be willing to act as a consultant to help them get started.

Other

The Chairman asked when the HPC is supposed to nominate a chair, noting that they had not met in February.

It was agreed that the nomination/vote are meant to take place near the beginning of the year.

To nominate Francis Tuoti to continue as Chairman of the Historic Preservation Commission and Gail Pantezzi as Vice Chair.

**Motion by: Debby Moore**

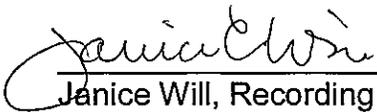
**Seconded by: John Malone**

**All in favor.**

Next meeting: April 1, 2014

Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Janice Will, Recording Secretary