

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
October 6, 2015
Delancey Hall**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Linda Gracie
Marcia Rockwood

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

Chairman Francis Tuoti opened the meeting. He thanked everyone and especially Susie Thompson for her work on the NPS Washington/Rochambeau exhibit for the Town.

Cat Ridge Cemetery Maintenance/Repairs

The Chairman said he was pleased to see the improvements in Cat Ridge Cemetery.

With regard to the repair of the Quick gravestone, Susie Thompson said professionals repaired and re-set the stone.

Ms. Thompson said an architect will do the assessment for repair of the cemetery vault. She commented that others may be consulted, but most are very expensive, so she would like to see what the architect (recommended by several people) has to say first.

Chairman Tuoti asked if the architect will also do the actual repair work.

Ms. Thompson replied that he will just assess the vault to see what needs to be done first, and she added that there are no funds available to make the repairs now any way.

Gail Pantezzi stated that she recently attended a seminar on grant-writing; the conductor knew Ms. Pantezzi was involved in historic preservation, so he asked for an example of a kind of grant she would be interested in. The conductor explained that there is a special code under state law, stating that when seeking funding for cemetery work, applicants must do all repair work according to that code.

Ms. Thompson explained that this was the reason she chose Beyond the Gravestone to conduct the initial work (they are familiar with the State law).

Ms. Pantezzi went on to say that when dealing with Federal funding there are many restrictions/great care must be taken to do everything exactly as stipulated, and use of the funds is tracked. She added that she is not familiar with the law yet, but she will look into it.

Ms. Thompson said she will have more information about the vault repair next week. Noting that 6 or 7 people turned out to work in Cat Ridge Cemetery recently, she handed around a draft brochure to be mailed out as part of the effort to raise funds for the repairs needed in the cemetery. She said she would be interested to hear ideas from the HPC members and asked if they would agree to let the Historical Society see the draft brochure at their next meeting. Ms. Thompson said she had left the back side of the folded brochure blank to facilitate bulk-mailing by the Historical Society, but they no longer have a permit for bulk-mailing. She suggested more photographs could be put on the blank side of the brochure. Ms. Thompson said there is time to work on any changes to the brochure; fund-raising will be conducted through the winter/the brochures won't be mailed out for a while. She stated that Tim Purdy asked that donations be made to the North Salem Historical Society/Cat Ridge Cemetery, and she asked the HPC to look the brochure over and let her know if they have any ideas for changes, additions, etc.

Chairman Tuoti asked what the total amount needed is estimated to be.

Ms. Thompson said it is about \$10,000, minus the 2 stones already repaired. She explained that the Town of Bedford makes repairs as funds become available. She went on to say that she met Steven Berzin (owner of the property located at the corner of Cat Ridge and Mills Roads) when the group was cleaning up at the cemetery. He seemed interested in what they were doing and offered his support in the form of a donation when solicitations are made. Ms. Thompson suggested that for now, people can work on cleaning and righting smaller stones in the cemetery.

Certified Local Government Program

Ms. Thompson said the public hearing re proposed changes to Chapters 130 and 131 is on the Town Board agenda for October 13, and she will forward the agenda to the HPC when it is posted.

Chairman Tuoti asked if the public hearing will be at the new meeting house as part of the regular Town Board meeting, and Ms. Thompson said she will confirm this.

Ms. Pantezzi said the HPC members were going to work on their bios for submission to the State as part of the request for North Salem's CLG status. She explained that a CV (curriculum vitae) is different from a resume in that it provides everything one has ever done in one's field.

Ms. Thompson offered what she had prepared to Ms. Pantezzi.

Ms. Pantezzi thanked her and said dates should be included as well as details re history; anything Ms. Thomson can think of that relates to her work with the HPC is important.

Ms. Thompson pointed out that Ms. Moore's family has lived in town for generations, and Chairman Tuoti lives in a very old house that his father built.

The Chairman commented that he worked on farms in Town when he was young.

Ms. Pantezzi thought it would be good for the HPC members to include lots of information in their bios, and they should be readable. She went on to say that the Federal government has been coming down hard on local municipalities that are not following correct procedures.

Rochambeau exhibit Ceremony

Ms. Pantezzi asked Ms. Thompson when there will be an article in the local newspaper about the NPS display.

Ms. Thompson did not know; she said no one from the paper was at the ribbon-cutting ceremony, but she sent them copies of her remarks and those of Supervisor Lucas as well as photos taken by Linda Farina. She noted that the Town signed an agreement of partnership with the Department of the Interior.

Ms. Pantezzi asked if there was any news about trail-markers for the Washington/Rochambeau route.

Ms. Thompson thought only the banners were being made available but said she would check.

Other

Chairman Tuoti asked if the others felt there was enough to do for the time being.

Ms. Pantezzi said she will write a report on her attendance at the grant-writing seminar. She also said she will speak to the Supervisor to ask him who in Town writes grants at present.

Ms. Thompson remarked that the Library writes a lot of grants.

Ms. Pantezzi thought it would be good to partner with them. She went on to say that she is watching to see if the Town maintenance issue will be on the Town Board agenda.

Ms. Thompson stated that budget requests for 2016 should be in already; the Chairman should send an e-mail requesting \$2000 for the HPC right away.

Ms. Moore said that when she was in the Historical Society office recently, she came across papers to do with the Town of Southeast's designation of historic districts. It is not restrictive to property-owners but designations are made to make people aware of the

significance of buildings and sites, and she is still interested in some kind of designation for the Purdys hamlet.

Ms. Pantezzi asked if Southeast has a law for designation of historic districts/she would like to see how they do it.

Ms. Moore said she will look for it.

The Chairman commented that North Salem's historic district law is rather strict, but maybe the HPC could call it something other than a historic district and make it less restrictive.

Mr. Malone said maybe they could use the term "historic zone".

Ms. Thompson said the HPC may also tell the Town Board that they need the law changed if they want to, commenting that it just became too difficult last time.

Ms. Pantezzi suggested looking at the Southeast law first.

Chairman Tuoti remarked that it might be easier to change the name of the designation than to change the law.

Approval of September 1 Meeting Minutes

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

Other (cont.)

Ms. Thompson stated that the Building Department will probably move into the former Court building (the Annex), and she thought the HPC should propose that when they do, the sign should read, "Lobdell Store and Post Office" instead of Annex.

Ms. Pantezzi asked if it has ever been decided what the new court will be called. She said she doesn't think bollards are necessary to prevent people from driving right into the building.

Ms. Thompson said there were a lot of State requirements for court buildings/that was probably one of them.

Ms. Pantezzi thought they should bring up the subject of the old court's name and maybe suggest including the date it was built.

Ms. Thompson said that would have been in the 1840's.

The Chairman said it had been a general store.

Ms. Thompson said there is more reason to hurry re a name for the new court than the Annex.

Mr. LaRocca thought they could look at suggestions (*for which?*) at their next meeting.

For the new court, Ms. Thompson suggested "Town Meeting House" with Court and Police listed below as a directory. She will call the Supervisor to see what is being planned.

Next Meeting: November 3.

Agreed.

To adjourn at approximately 5:55 pm:

Motion by: Debby Moore

Seconded by: John Malone.

Respectfully submitted,



Janice Will, Recording Secretary