

**Town of Saugerties
Historic Preservation Commission
Minutes of the August 21, 2017 meeting**

Present: Susan Puret, Vice-Chairwoman; member Myles Putman, Secretary;; and member Barry Benepe; Town Board Liaison Bill Schirmer (arrived around 5:45 pm).

Excused: Stefan Yarabek, Chairman, and member Michael Sullivan Smith

The Commission met in the conference room adjacent to the Building Department offices at Town Hall.

Meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairwoman Puret at 5:00 pm.

Approval of minutes of July 17, 2017 Commission meeting.

Motion by Barry Benepe to accept the minutes as submitted, seconded by Myles Putman; approved unanimously.

Old Business.

1. Status of Correction to Town Website (Address inconsistencies in on-line town regulations). Nothing to report on. Myles will follow up with Stephan on status of memo that was drafted following the July 17 meeting.

Discussion followed over the language in Chapter 145 of the Town Code, which was found to be virtually identical to the older version of the historic preservation regulations. Myles said that he created a new PDF from the current chapter of the code and circulated the same to the Commission members.

2. Stone House Legacy memorialization resolution. Stephan e-mailed the Committee members on August 15 indicating that he had not heard back from SHPO as of that date. Nothing to report on. Nothing to report regarding the Village Review Board. Matter tabled until September.

Barry expressed concerns about the use of the word "designation" in the resolution. Myles read back the text of the resolution as contained within a memo to the Town Board drafted last month, and Barry expressed his satisfaction with the current wording of the resolution.

3. Asbury District - Overview. Myles presented a short text overview along with a map and property list, all of which were circulated on-line to the Commission members. Myles mentioned that Town Historian Audrey Klinkenberg has information on the old Methodist cemetery. Barry was in agreement with the study area boundaries and thanked Myles for his work. Barry was in favor of beginning informal discussions with the various landowners.

The Board directs the Chairman to begin outreach to the key property owners - the Carnrights, the Trumpbours, the Smiths and the McVinishes, for attendance possibly at the October commission meeting. Tabled until September.

4. Historical Map Project. Barry read from his notes from 2015, when this idea was last

discussed by the Commission. The design concept is of an overlay between the 1875 Beers' atlas map of the town and a layer showing the existing street network. Other map information would be the town boundary, watercourses (in blue), outlines of the historic hamlets and their historic names, churches and certain ruins, such as the brickyard at Bristol Beach or some of the mill sites. Claudette at the Building Department is willing to help. Tabled until September.

New Business.

1. Resolution on Solar Development in the Town of Saugerties. During the discussion of the Asbury district study, Barry indicated that the Commission should adopt a resolution that expresses the Commission's concerns over the potential for large-scale solar arrays in agricultural lands, on the grounds that such agricultural lands are part of the town's historic resources. Barry stated that large solar arrays are industrial in character, and can take out significant amounts of acreage from traditional farm production. He said that any type of facility that generates electricity is classified as a utility use under the SIC system, and is more appropriately located in an industrially-zoned area of the Town.

Motion made by Barry Benepe:

The Town of Saugerties Historic Preservation Commission finds that a solar array is a utility use, and industrial in character; and hereby declares that no solar array installation be developed on agricultural land, unless the zoning of said agricultural land is changed to an industrial district where such use is allowed.

Additional discussion ensued. The full Commission should have an opportunity to examine and comment on this. Barry Benepe amended his motion to request that Myles Putman re-edit the resolution prior to any further action by the Commission. This was seconded by Susan Puretz and approved unanimously.

After further discussion, Myles Putman moved that this matter be tabled until September. Seconded by Barry Benepe, and approved unanimously.

Miscellaneous Business.

Barry Benepe announced he will not be able to attend the September commission meeting.

With no further business to discuss, Myles Putman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Barry Benepe. Meeting was adjourned at 5:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Myles Putman
Secretary