



**Village of Williamsville
Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting Minutes --- December 11, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Kate Waterman-Kulpa, Chairman
Wes Stone, Vice-Chairman
Chuck Akers, Member
Jim Tamaro, Member

Also present: Deborah A. Habes, Clerk-P/T
Matthew Etu, Trustee Liaison
Charles Grieco, Village Attorney
Susan Palmer, Ex-officio
Emily Garrett, prospective member

Excused: Anthony Bannon, Member
Mary Lowther, Member

Ms. Waterman-Kulpa opened the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) meeting at 7:00 p. m.

ON MOTION by Mr. Akers, seconded by Mr. Stone, it was moved to approve the minutes of the November 26, 2019 HPC meeting, as amended.

Motion carried. 4 – 0.

Proposed nomination as local landmarks various landscape elements/site features listed in the Intensive Level Historic Resource Survey of Village of Williamsville

Ms. Waterman-Kulpa addressed the following ten proposed landscape/site features to be nominated by HPC:

1. Stone Wall in front of 71 and 81 N. Ellicott Street
2. Stone Hitching Post in front of 78 Evan's Street
3. Stone Wall in front of 127 Garrison Road
4. Stone Wall in front of 72 N. Long Street
5. Stone Wall Fragment on East Side of Grove Street (5480 Main St.)
6. Stone Wall in front of 95 Mill Street
7. Stone Wall at Cambria Castle in front of 175 Oakgrove Drive

8. Stone Wall and Landscape Element in front of 97 and 121 Reist Street
9. Various Sidewalk Stamps throughout Village*
10. Stone Wall and Garden House in front/rear of 5672 Main St.

Ms. Waterman-Kulpa prepared and submitted the landmark designation application forms for the above listed sites/features and wants to make sure that these thematic landscape/site features are duly added to the list of historic landmarks.

ON MOTION by Mr. Tamaro, seconded by Mr. Stone, it was moved to nominate as historic landmarks all of the above listed sites/features, as submitted, EXCEPT for *#9 (Various Sidewalk Stamps throughout Village), which will be researched further and re-submitted at a future date.

Motion carried. 4 – 0.

February 25, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. was set as the date of the HPC's public hearings for the 9 nominated sites/features. As per Chapter 47, Administrator Kindron will have to publish legal notice as well as search the names and addresses of the property owners and mail them notice of the public hearings at least 30 days in advance, in addition to all other requirements of Chapter 47.

Nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman

Ms. Waterman-Kulpa offered to be chairman until the end of the term of 12/2021. She distributed to the members copies of recent emails and a letter regarding CLG status. There was discussion regarding the appropriateness of these communications without her knowledge. She expressed frustration with how things were handled and suggested she is not a quitter and will stand up for the Historic Preservation Commission's standards and requirements. She will contact Mr. Finelli of SHPO herself.

Trustee Etu acknowledged Ms. Waterman-Kulpa's frustration and stated he understands how she feels at not being copied the communication, but he does not believe there is any subterfuge going on at any level. He shares her frustration with the conflicts between HPC and the Village Board. Urged all to be professionals, do good for the community and move on. Ms. Waterman-Kulpa urged everyone to take the politics out of HPC.

Ms. Waterman-Kulpa reviewed the progression of the proposed designation of S. Cayuga Rd. as a historic district. It began with fear of development of the Sippel property and at that time there was no negative feedback from the S. Cayuga residents. Once that particular perceived threat became a non-issue, and the district was once again pursued, the neighbors rose against it.

Mr. Akers added he believed that the neighbors perhaps thought that the designation as a historic district would not be pursued further by HPC.

Ms. Garrett acknowledged that as a resident of S. Cayuga, she can see that it is easy as an outsider to build an argument against it. More information/education has to be offered/disseminated to the public to allow them the opportunity to understand the value of designation as a historic district. There are many misconceptions out there.

Mr. Stone nominated Ms. Waterman-Kulpa as Chairman of HPC. There were no other nominations brought forward.

ON MOTION by Mr. Akers, seconded by Mr. Tammaro, it was moved to approve Ms. Waterman-Kulpa as HPC Chairman for a 2 year term thru 12/2021.

Motion carried. 4 – 0.

Ms. Waterman-Kulpa nominated Mr. Stone as Vice-Chairman of HPC. There were no other nominations brought forward.

ON MOTION by Ms. Waterman-Kulpa, seconded by Mr. Tammaro, it was moved to approve Mr. Stone as HPC Vice-Chairman for a 2 year term thru 12/2021.

Motion carried. 4 – 0.

Historic Landmark Design Standards Revisions

The task of revising the document to reflect the residential design standards continued. There was discussion regarding clarification and revision of the Historic Landmark Design Standards document. As items were brought up and discussed and agreed upon, Ms. Waterman-Kulpa made the notations on her lap top. Due to the lengthy task of making the needed revisions, and because Ms. Lowther and Mr. Bannon were not in attendance to add to the discussion tonight, it was decided to continue noting the various revisions at the January 28th HPC meeting.

Welcome Packets for HPC members

Most documents are on the Village website. At the January 28th HPC meeting they will make a motion to include x number of documents in the Welcome Packet.

These documents will include, but are not limited to:

1. Historic Walking Tour of the Village Booklet published by the Williamsville Historical Society

2. Recon Survey of 1997
3. Intensive Level Survey of 2013
4. Intensive Level Survey of 2017 (S. Cayuga Rd. District)
5. Current Design Standards
6. Print out of Chapter 47 of the Village Code (Historic Preservation Commission)
7. Fact Sheet
8. Welcome Letter
9. Reference list of pertinent information/books, etc.
10. Link to Ed Young's website

Trustee Etu shared that there has been some discussion at the Village Board level regarding reducing the number of HPC members from 7 to 5 suggesting it is difficult to find 7 members who fulfill the HPC professional requirements in such a small population like the Village's. There was some discussion on the reasons to have 7 members (at one time HPC was having a lot of trouble with member absences and lack of quorums at meetings). HPC decided to keep it at 7 members for now.

Model Law Update

Mr. Grieco asked everyone to refer to the updated cleaned up version he emailed to all on November 25/19 at 3:08pm.

It was decided to adopt the Model Law at the January 28, 2020 HPC meeting.

In other business:

- Ms. Waterman-Kulpa asked that the Building Inspector check out the Bank of America (at corner of S. Cayuga Rd. and Main St.) exterior alterations that have been going on there, such as the HPCP ramp. Did they get a permit? Water table is being covered. Why didn't it come before HPC?
- Share Kitchen and Bar – Trustee Etu informed the HPC that this business appeared before the Village Board work session recently to inform them of their intention to proceed (again) with the prospect of a roofed patio on the E. Spring St. side of the building. They would like to come to HPC for a future sketch review to get initial feedback from the members. Ms. Waterman-Kulpa requested that they formally ask her well enough in advance of a meeting to be placed on the agenda and not just show up at a meeting.
- 5429 Main St – (Former Starbucks/Alex and Ani) Reported to be a new location for Newberry Salads (from Elmwood Ave.) restaurant. May be on the January agenda for C of A for some exterior alterations.

Digitization of Residential properties

Mr. Tammaro reported that he is continuing to work on this project.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Submitted by:

Deborah A. Habes
PT/Clerk

***The next HPC meeting will be held on January 28, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at Village Hall, 5565 Main Street.**