

Minutes of the Village of Williamsville Historic Preservation Commission meeting held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Note: Due to the NYS Covid-19 lockdown directives, this meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

Roll Call: Christine Hunt, Chairman
James Tamaro, Member
Kathleen DeLaney, Member
Susan Palmer, Resource Officer

Also Present: Deborah A. Habes, P/T Clerk
Matthew Etu, Trustee Liaison To HPC
Charles Grieco, Village Attorney (via Zoom)

Excused: Anthony Bannon, Member
Charles Akers, Member
Mary Lowther, Member
Wes Stone, Resource Officer
Thomas Barrett, Resource Officer

Chairman Hunt opened the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Note: HPC did not meet in November or December 2020.

There being no quorum at this meeting, all votes will be held until such time as there is a quorum.

Chairman Hunt introduced newest HPC member Kathleen Delaney who was appointed by the Village Board on November 23, 2020. Ms. Delaney gave a brief summary of her past experience as a former HPC member and her related work as an archivist. She added she enjoyed the recent HPC training that she attended and is happy to be back on the commission.

New Business

Recent Training Summary - *A Walk through the HP Code* - January 21, 2020, 6-8pm (via zoom)

In this HPC training with Preservation Buffalo Niagara, Director of Preservation Services Christiana Limniatis guided commissioner members through a thorough review of the Historic Preservation Law of the Town of Amherst (Chapter 121) and provided tips and tools to ensure transparency and accountability as the HPC accomplishes their mission of protecting, enhancing and perpetuating the landmarks and historic districts of the Town of Amherst. Due to her familiarity with the Village of Williamsville HP Code, Ms. Limniatis also made it relevant to our group. HPC members Chuck Ackers, Kathleen DeLaney and Christine Hunt attended the 2-hour training.

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Chairman Hunt asked Trustee Liaison Etu who keeps track of the training at the Clerk's Office. Trustee Etu replied that the Village Board oversees and must approve of any courses taken by the members in order for the hours to be applied to the required hours of training per year for each member. In this case, since HPC hadn't met since October, the Village Board will approve of this training retroactively at their next Village Board meeting in February.

At this time, Trustee Etu explained the yearly budget process as the Village Board will be meeting sometime in February to start talking about the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. There is still money available for training in this budget year. He asked the members to let him know if they want any changes in their budget going forward. If budgeted funds are not used from one budget year to the next, they get added back into the general fund. He will see that the previously approved and budgeted historic plaques (\$2,500 in the current budget) will be ordered ASAP by the Village Clerk. Printing can usually be done in-house for the most part. The members that were present decided to keep the same HPC budget for next year with no changes.

There was discussion regarding the upcoming status of the overall Village budget. Trustee Etu gave a brief overview of what to expect. He indicated that most of our income is derived from property taxes and actually less than 20% comes from sales tax revenue. Chairman Hunt indicated her desire to get going with the historic plaque project and the 1955 photo project.

Old Business

1955 Photos of Main Street Buildings Project

Mr. Tammaro reported that he has met a couple of times with Mr. Akers and Mr. Bannon to discuss the photo project since the last HPC meeting in October. Mr. Akers met with members of the WBA to test their interest in participating in the photo display project. After researching costs involved with printing and framing it was decided that there are reasonably priced frames with mats available on Amazon that could total perhaps \$20 - \$30 each, so pricing won't create an obstacle to proceeding with the project and using current budgeted funds. Mr. Tammaro indicated a time frame: February – sample photo and frame; March – series of articles about the photo project in the Amherst Bee; April – distribute framed photos to the various businesses interested in displaying the photos; May – Historic Preservation Month when the photos would be on display. Mr. Tammaro has a PowerPoint already to go. Chairman Hunt would like to request that this PowerPoint be shared with the Village so it can be added to the Village website. Trustee Etu indicated that she only needs to share it with Keaton DePriest at Village Hall and he can work with her to accomplish this.

Historic Plaques

Trustee Etu – Recipients have been chosen already for the first set. Mary Lowther knows who has gotten plaques in the past.

Without any further items to discuss, Chairman Hunt closed the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

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Submitted by:

Deborah A. Habes

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P/T Clerk

**Next scheduled HPC meeting will be held
February 23, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
Check the Village website for status.**