

**Village of Williamsville  
5565 Main St., Williamsville, NY  
Historic Preservation Commission  
Public Hearing  
October 25, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.**

Chair Kate Waterman-Kulpa handed out a Village of Williamsville Historic Preservation Commission FAQs Sheet to members of the HPC Board and the audience. (A copy of this sheet is included with the minutes.) Kate went through each bullet point on the FAQs sheet prior to opening the public hearing for tonight.

On Motion by Susan Fenster, seconded by Ray Herman, it was motioned to open the public hearing, that is continued from 9/27/22, to hear all those interested on commenting on the proposed Historic Mill District

Motion passed 6 – 0

- 1.) Cheryl Meyer  
Willowbrook
  - Designation will devalue.
  - Historic buildings sold for less than they were purchased for.
  - Taxes do go up. Not always a good thing.
  - State & Federal grant funds are taxpayer money.

*(Kate Waterman-Kulpa – Need evidentiary information regarding devalue. Federal money is from Fracking.)*
  
- 2.) David Sherman  
69 Columbia Dr.
  - Asked why the Mill district does not include the Amherst Bee Building or the Village Artisans building.  
*(Kate Waterman-Kulpa – They do not have a visual of the Mill from Main Street.)*
  - Both buildings do have a view of the Mill. The Bee building and the Eagle House are two of the oldest properties in the Village.  
*(Kate Waterman-Kulpa – Justification regarding viewshed statement of significance would have to be adjusted. The Commission could investigate.)*
  
- 3.) Karen Hipp  
79 Monroe Dr.
  - Asked if the Share property would be discussed tonight.  
*(Kate Waterman-Kulpa – No.)*
  - Curious what the problem is.

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- 4.) Eileen Torre  
109 N. Ellicott St.
- Read the following comments off her phone:  
“Historic preservation preserves the historic, architectural, and aesthetic character and heritage of our Village community and helps provide a sense of place and consistency. Suburban sprawl makes more places look the same, it becomes important for communities, like ours, to keep their identities intact. Striking historic structures such as the Williamsville Watermill, the Eagle House, Moorpat, Share restaurant and other buildings help to define our community and hint at its past. Our Village’s history contributes to the pride we have as a community. Designating a historic district maintains that architectural and historical integrity. Such historic designations will help to protect our Village from losing grand buildings by demolition and unwanted urban sprawl. With a historic district designation we are creating a symbol of our heritage, character, and are preserving those important historic resources that make the Village so special and desirable. We owe it to the next generations to preserve all the richness that makes our Village so very special.”  
*(Kate Waterman-Kulpa – Local landmarking is the only protection an historic property has from being demolished.)*
- 5.) Thomas Frank  
5403 Main Street
- Concerned about the sluiceway
  - Landmark is the foundation for Historic Williamsville
  - Hydro-geographic topography
  - National Historic significance  
*(Kate Waterman-Kulpa – Nomination touches on the history of Ellicott Creek and the Sluiceway.)*
- 6.) Nelson Torre  
109 North Ellicott St.
- Thank’d the members of the HPC for the work they do as volunteers.
  - Large number of people support the HPC due to history, small town charm.
  - Expressed confusion as to why businesses & people purchase in historical area to change structure.
  - Profit is what they seek.
  - Local landmark designation is important to keep it from looking like Niagara Falls Boulevard

On motion by Kate Waterman-Kulpa, seconded by Susan Fenster, it was motioned to close the public hearing at 6:35pm.

Motion passes 6-0