

Minutes of the Village of Williamsville Historic Preservation Commission meeting held virtually via Zoom on Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Present: Christine Hunt, Chairman
James Tammaro, Member
Kathleen DeLaney, Member
Mary Lowther, Member

Also Present: Deborah A. Habes, P/T Clerk
Matthew Etu, Trustee Liaison to HPC

Excused: Charles Akers, Member
Anthony Bannon, Member
Susan Palmer, Resource Officer
Wes Stone, Resource Officer
Thomas Barrett, Resource Officer

Chairman Hunt opened the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

ON MOTION by Ms. Delaney, seconded by Ms. Lowther, it was moved to approve the minutes of the HPC meeting of March 23, 2021. (HPC did not meet in April)

On the question, Ms. Hunt reported a typographical error: Next scheduled meeting date should have been “April 27”.

Motion amended to approve as corrected.

Motion carried. 4 – 0.

New Business

There will be a celebration of the new engine at the Lehigh Train Depot in August and Ms. Lowther will be distributing HPC coloring books there. She will keep the HPC up to date. Had an HPC banner made 2 years and it is stored at Village Hall in the trustees’ office. Trustee Etu let the committee know to contact Keaton with any equipment requests well in advance.

Old Business

Historic Plaque Presentation – June 5, 2021 is the new date for this event. Howard Cadmus is fine with the change in date. Will be at Noon in front of the red Miller’s House at 60 E. Spring St. (on the Williamsville Mill Complex). Ms. Hunt will connect with Keaton for podium and speaker needs. Ms. Hunt had previously shared via email an example of an invitation format and wording. Discussion was had regarding invitees, which included the Town Clerk and all Town officials, Village officials, Christina Limniatis and to encourage recipients to invite their

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families, friends and customers via their social media and websites. Ms. Hunt will invite Mr. Cadmus to the next HPC meeting to discuss the details of the event.

The Amherst Bee – Keaton has contacted the Amherst Bee and the Village has posted an announcement about May being Historic Preservation Month. The editor of the Bee will be doing a story about the presentation of the plaques. HPC will ask Keaton to format the invitation, also to print it on card stock so it can be mailed to the recipients. It will be emailed to all others.

Status of the potential sale of the Meeting House - Trustee Etu reported that there was no new information.

Mural inside the Bank of America Building – Ms. Hunt reported that Mr. Bannon has had no contact yet with anyone from the bank. He will continue working on it.

Residential stone wall on Garrison Rd. – Members registered disappointment that the wall was not designated an historic landmark by the Village Board at the April 26th public hearing. (The video recording of the entire Village Board meeting of April 26th can be viewed on the Village website.) Members stated they were surprised by the tone of the email that Mr. DePriest sent out regarding the procedure for attending in person at the Village Board meeting. Trustee Etu replied that it was because of the requirements of social distancing and the difficulty in juggling the requirements with the reality of holding in-person meetings now. They thought the message was confusing and very strongly worded. They took umbrage at the tone of the message. Mr. Tammaro opined that the Town of Amherst would have handled it differently by holding the public hearing open until the next meeting. Ms. Delaney felt that a richer, fuller email message would have been better received. Suggested that the overflow attendees could be seated in the conference room with audio provided. There later followed a discussion regarding the Village Board's overall thoughts on the designation of stone wall features as historic landmarks. Trustee Etu gave his opinion that since this stone wall was located on residential property, and not on commercial property, and since the property owner was not in favor of its historic landmark designation, some trustees voted against designation. Perhaps if the property owner had been in favor of the designation, they might have voted in favor of it. Trustee Etu made it clear that the Village Board is not making personal attacks. He stated that the HPC has a very good track record of the Village Board voting in favor of historic landmark designations after HPC nominations. Trustee Etu shared that he was conflicted on this Garrison Road stone wall. The current property owners have taken good care of the stone wall on their property and pledged to continue taking good care of the wall into the future. He does not fear the future of the wall. In addition, the HPC nomination was not clear on the exact date of construction of this stone wall and there was no information as to the actual builder of the wall. These were issues that could have contributed to the vote to deny the designation of this stone wall feature.

1955 Photos of Main Street Buildings Project – Mr. Tammaro stated he thought the images were not grainier in the larger size format. He will contact Mr. Bannon and proceed with the project by just going to a framing shop within the next week and get it done. Keaton has the prints. Mr. Tammaro will add to the labels the address and that the photos were from the Town of Amherst archives. He will share it with the HPC members.

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Historic Preservation Month in May – Trustee Etu confirmed that it will be possible to have the Village Board proclaim at the next Village Board meeting (May 10) that May is Historic Preservation Month. Keaton will take care of the Amherst Bee articles.

Historic Plaques Recipients – Trustee Etu shared that Administrator Kindron received 8 confirmed yeses from the proposed 12 recipients she sent letters to. An order of 12 plaques has been made. Delivery is 5-7 weeks from date of order. The day of the award event is the end of week 7. Trustee Etu thought it will all work out.

Ms. Hunt suggested having a fall historic plaque event as well so that they could keep the momentum of the awarding process going. Could do a 75th anniversary event in 2025 to commemorate the anniversary of the photos being taken in 1950. Mr. Tammaro reported that the month of October is NYS Archives Month. Could do it then and would be a good opportunity to tie it in at that time. Mr. Tammaro and Ms. Delaney agreed to work on this together to get out the word to the various archival agencies. Ms. Hunt offered to help Mr. Tammaro with the photo framing project. She will send the completed Committee Event Request Form to Keaton.

Trustee Etu reported that he received a resume from an architect who lives in Cheektowaga who is interested in serving as a Resource Officer on the HPC. Trustee Etu offered to share the resume with the HPC members. He will follow through and email it to all the members.

With no further business, Ms. Hunt asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

ON MOTION by Mr. Tammaro, seconded by Ms. Delaney, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

Motion carried. 4 – 0.

Submitted by:

Deborah A. Habes

P/T Clerk

**Next scheduled HPC meeting is planned to be held
via the hybrid model (in-person and via Zoom)
on May 26, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
Check the Village website
www.walkablewilliamsville.com
for agenda and status.**