

**MINUTES  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
MAY, 4, 2011**

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VILLAGE OF WILLIAMSVILLE  
2011 SEP 23 PM 1:18

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Penny Armitage, Stephen Dyson, Robert Ess, Wes Stone, Kate Waterman-Kulpa,

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Mayor Mary Lowther, Charles Grieco, Joseph Dispenza, William Murray

Old Business:  
None.

New Business:

1. Wes Stone was nominated and unanimously elected as the new chair of the commission following Kathleen Delaney's resignation.
2. The commission members will rotate taking meeting minutes. Kate Waterman-Kulpa will take the minutes of tonight's meeting.
3. The Forest Lawn Group (aka The Buffalo City Cemetery) submitted an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for modification of the Williamsville Cemetery fence.

A. Attorney Charles Grieco reviewed the SEQR form with the commission. After discussion, it was determined that the work identified by the application would not create an adverse environmental impacts. Motion to accept the negative declaration statement as drafted with the change of "landmark" to "local landmark" in the description of action by Kate Waterman-Kulpa. Seconded by Stephen Dyson. There was no further discussion. Unanimously approved.

B. There was a presentation by William Murray and Joseph Dispenza of the Forest Lawn Group, along with Joseph Jakubic of International Chimney, and Morgan Dunbar of Animal Allies of WNY (the "team"). The topic of the presentation was the self impalement of deer in certain areas of the fence surrounding the Williamsville Cemetery.

In 2006, the HPC and the Forest Lawn Group mutually agreed not to alter the fence when the proposal for moving a portion of the fence came before the commission. But the number of reported deer impalements has dramatically increased in the recent past.

The team tried to find a feasible and sustainable solution to the deer impalement issue that fit the following criteria: it would not impact the historic integrity of the fence, it would not impact the dignity of the cemetery, the solution

would be easily removable, and it would be made of a suitable material. There are about 4,000 spikes on the fence. The team looked at the historic preservation portion of the Village Code when creating a solution. The proposed solution is to create removable black steel powder coated "c-shaped" caps for the spikes. Since the plan was revealed, about \$4,000 in donations have been made to the fund to pay for these caps. Joseph Jakubic of International Chimney showed the commission a sample of the cap as designed by the team. (Sample submitted with the minutes.) He said they took a preservation approach while designing the cap. They looked at the Secretary of the Interior Standards for a stabilization measure for public safety. The cap will be placed over the spike and secured in position by placing the tip of the spike in the hole on the opposite side of the "c-shaped" cap. A 30 year grade sealant (black to match the caps and the fence) will be used to secure the caps in place. The caps will not fully prevent the deer for injuring themselves, but should prevent death. Volunteer groups will install the caps. Morgan Dunbar stated that the SPCA said a group of deer live in the Williamsville Cemetery. The caps will start to be placed on the fence at the rear of the property.

Wes Stone stated that the reintroduction of dogs in the cemetery might solve the deer issue. Joseph Dispenza said the dogs relieve themselves in the park and that is not the dignity that they want for those in the cemetery or for visiting family members.

The Forest Lawn Group will be responsible for the upkeep and replacement of the caps. Same day replacement will be possible by keeping extra caps on hand. The damage to the fence was the result of experimentation of a solution to the issue will be repair as soon as possible.

Motion to accept the certificate of appropriateness for the modification of the Williamsville Cemetery as submitted by Stephen Dyson. Seconded by Robert Ess. There was no further discussion. Unanimously approved.

3. The commission members will be invited to a presentation by the architects for the Mill restoration/stabilization during a work session of the Village Board. Information to follow via email.

4. The Village Administrator will send a notice to the WNY Railroad Historical Society as a reminder that alterations to the building are to be presented to the HPC before the work is completed.

5. Motion to adjourn by Wes Stone. Seconded by Stephen Dyson. Unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:24pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kate Waterman-Kulpa