

EAST AURORA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Meeting Date: Wednesday, May 9, 2018

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Village Hall, 571 Main St., East Aurora, NY, Basement Conference Room

Present: Mary Ann Colopy, Saxon Deck, Michael Lennon, Linda Ulrich-Hagner, Mark Warren

Absent: Michael Ried, Patrick Mahoney, Steve Luzackis (Village Board liaison)

Also Present: 5 members of the public

Ms. Colopy called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and noted that there was a quorum present.

MOTION to approve the Minutes of the meeting of April 11, 2018 by Ms. Deck. Seconded by Mr. Warren. Motion unanimously approved.

Ms. Colopy welcomed the newest member of the HPC, Linda Ulrich-Hagner.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Ms. Colopy opened a discussion regarding interior “Public Spaces” and its definition. Mr. Warren suggested requesting information from SHPO on best practices and examples, then consider how the term applies to Historic Preservation Committees. Ms. Colopy replied that she has been in contact with the SHPO liaison, James Finelli, and will contact him for the needed information.
- A discussion ensued regarding the East Main St. designation as a historic district. Mr. Warren recommended that East Main not be designated historic as a district, but to work individually with those homeowners who are interested in designating their home as historic. Ms. Deck suggested that the topic be put on hold for a year so as to gather more information. Ms. Colopy concurred with the suggestion to table the discussion for at least six months and wait for more input from the community.

MOTION by Ms. Deck, to postpone the designation of East Main St. as a historic district for a minimum of six months and to revisit the issue after considering the input from the community. Mr. Warren asked for an amendment to the motion adding that the issues be tabled indefinitely pending reactivation upon prior written notice by regular mail to all properties within any potential district. Seconded by Ms. Colopy. Motion with amendment unanimously approved.

- In regard to the issue of Boice Lydell’s property, Ms. Colopy suggested that the HPC consider “A report on ongoing long term restoration projects”, which would allow for a report on the continuing work of the RCC. As a result of this report it would also allow the HPC to let Mr. Lydell know that a report on the progress of his properties on the Roycroft campus is requested. It was decided that a formal notice will be sent to Mr. Lydell to report to the HPC regarding the status of the restoration being done to his properties. Ms. Deck stated that member Pat Mahoney could contact Mr. Lydell and if he is unavailable she would send the notice. Ms. Ulrich-Hagner also volunteered to make contact with Mr. Lydell.
- Mr. Lennon updated the Commission on the work being done at the Roycroft, specifically the work planned for the Copper Shop flooring. A meeting was held regarding financing and the work will be moving forward in January of 2019 with a 3 month completion goal.
- Daniel Sheff appeared before the Commission to present his credentials and to request that he be considered for a place on the Commission. Mr. Sheff has submitted his resume to Mayor Mercurio and will send copies of his resume to members of the commission. It was agreed by all members that a recommendation be made to the Mayor for appointing Mr. Sheff to the commission.

APPLICATIONS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- Ms. Colopy stated that she is continuing to ask for input from HPC members pertaining to community outreach and how to better educate the public on the purpose and function of the HPC within the village. In that vein, she stated that she has reached out to Rob Goller, the town historian who suggested a fall architectural walking tour. The HPC and Mr. Goller would collaborate on the tour, pointing out the architectural details of historic homes as well as the history of the homes. Ms. Deck stated that she has been in contact with Jennifer Jones to continue work on a new HPC pamphlet/brochure. It was suggested that the HPC march in the Fourth of July parade with a HPC banner.
- Mr. Warren reported on the progress of the preservation guideline book he has been working on. At this point, Mr. Warren stated that it is a work in process. Although the text is written (with possibly a few changes in the near future), he feels the need for some illustrations for it to be complete. He will contact Nancy Burkhardt in the village office to ask to have the text be uploaded to the HPC website and will email the text to the HPC members.
- Ms. Colopy announced that both census districts are now available for historic tax credits for homeowners, which includes the entire village of East Aurora. The map is available online and Ms. Colopy handed out enlarged maps of the district to the members. A discussion ensued regarding the process and the new guidelines.
- Ms. Colopy encouraged HPC members to attend the May 21, 2018 Village Board meeting which will include the Zoning and Planning Commissions for an ongoing conversation regarding working together on issues.
- Ms. Colopy opened up the meeting to members of the public:
 - request that the HPC keep the lines of communication open when raising the issue of historic designation and notifying homeowners of any HPC activity in that regard
 - thank you for strongly suggesting individual historic designation sights as opposed to district designation
 - concerns with an egress lane next to a business owner's business

MOTION to adjourn made by Ms. Deck, seconded by Mr. Warren. Unanimously approved.
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: June 13, 2018

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Rich