

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes

Wednesday November 19, 2014

6:00 pm

City Hall, One Batavia City Centre, Batavia NY

Members Present: *Joan Barton, Ashley Bateman, Sharon Burkel, Henry Emmans, Paul Schulte, Teresa Siverling,*
Others Present: Jason Molino - City Manager Jason Molino, Shawn Heubusch - Chief of Police, Ron Panek - Code Enforcement Officer, Meg Chilano - Recording Secretary

I. Call to order

The meeting was opened at 5:59 pm by Chairperson, Joan Barton.

II. Approval of minutes for October 22, 2014

Motion by: Paul Schulte

Motion was made to approve the meeting minutes for August 2014

Seconded by: Teresa Siverling

Vote for: 6

Abstained: 0

Vote against: 0

III. Communications sent and received

A. Telephone conversation with Brian Colton. Mrs. Barton reported that during her meeting with City Manager Jason Molino they discussed the property at 33 Ross Street and how it would be a good candidate for the Historic Property Tax Exemption considering its rehabilitation following the fire. Mrs. Barton said that after the meeting with Mr. Molino, she contacted Brian Colton from Master Care Restoration. She recommended that Mr. Colton speak to the assessor regarding the property because he plans to buy it in the spring. Mrs. Barton said that she told Mr. Colton that if it was necessary for the HPC, the assessor, and possibly Mr. Molino to get together, they would be willing to do that. She explained that she wanted to be sure that the opportunity for the property tax exemption is not lost during the change of ownership. Mrs. Barton said that this will be the first time they get to see the tax exemption status applied in the City, and that she and Mr. Molino discussed how it might be possible in the future to use the property tax exemption to help in the rehab of some of the vacant properties in the City if they meet the HPC requirements. She said that she told Mr. Colton that if he has any questions about historic preservation as he proceeds, he should let the HPC know. Mrs. Barton said that Mr. Colton told her he needs to check with the assessor about the property value. He thinks that the assessment may have already been reduced because of the fire. If it has been reduced, the property tax would come into play because it would be applied to the raise in assessment, which would come off the bill for five years, and then gradually be applied over the next five years. Mrs. Siverling said that where the fire occurs in the yearly tax season affects the application of the exemption.

IV. Old Business

A. 101 Washington Avenue. Mrs. Barton reported that Dr. Frias asked for suggestions on what to do with the fence at 101 Washington Avenue. She said that even though it has the

appearance of a pocketed fence, Dr. Frias informed her that the fence has never been pocketed. Dr. Frias said that he found rails lying on the ground on a nearly daily basis because people were sitting on them and breaking them. Dr. Frias told Mrs. Barton that the contractor he hired put the blocks under the rails as braces for support. Mrs. Barton said that she agreed with Mrs. Bateman about not liking how it looks because it appears to be a more like a work in progress than a finished product. However, when Dr. Frias asked her for an alternative solution, she did not have one. She said that she told Dr. Frias she would bring it before the HPC and report back to him. Mrs. Barton said that if she does not hear any suggestions by the next meeting, she intends to send Dr. Frias an email and tell him the committee is okay with how he has handled the fence because they do not have a better solution.

- B. Rochester Community Foundation Grant Application.** Mr. Molino apologized for not being able to complete the grant application for the Redfield pillars. He said that they ran out of time but that there are a couple of other program options and that he would try to consider one of the other options for next year.

V. New Business

- A. Centennial Celebration Advertisement.** Mrs. Barton wanted to entertain discussion on an advertisement in the newspaper pertaining to the centennial celebration. She reported that there was a solicitation for photos from a hundred years ago. Mrs. Barton said that if the Commission supports her she believes that they should advertise in the centennial publication. She pointed out that the HPC did not have a large amount of expenditures this year and therefore has money available in the budget. She said that she would contact the paper, discover the financial details, and report to the Commission at the next meeting. Mrs. Siverling suggested that they use the opportunity to make a pitch for the HPC.
- B. Christmas Tree.** Mrs. Barton announced that the HPC has a tree on display at the Holland Land Office Museum thanks to herself, Mrs. Siverling, and Mrs. Burkel. She said that the HLOM was kind enough to let them use ornaments once again this year.
- C. Discussion of Budget.** According to Mrs. Barton, as an accountant she has some concerns about the availability of money in the HPC budget. She said that she would not want to have the City decide that the Commission's budget could afford to be cut. She pointed out that it just happened that plaques had already been purchased and not needed this year, and also that there was no training this year. She said that if the HPC wanted to run an ad in the centennial publication, there would be money available to do so.
- D. Commissioner Terms Ending 12/31/14.** Mrs. Barton informed the HPC that Mr. Emmans wants to stay on the board, as does Mr. Schulte. Mrs. Barton said that she checked with Heidi Parker regarding the waiting period between terms. According to Mrs. Parker, a waiting period is unnecessary because the terms are the second consecutive terms. Mrs. Barton added that she will be applying to come back to serve on the board, however, not as the Chair.
- E. Presentation.** Mr. Molino and Chief Heubusch presented an overview of the Police Department Feasibility Report.

VI. Adjournment:

Meeting closed at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Meg Chilano