

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Unapproved Minutes

Wednesday March 25, 2015

6:00 pm

City Hall, One Batavia City Centre, Batavia New York

Members Present: Ashley Bateman, Larry Barnes, Sharon Burkel, Teresa Siverling, Paul Schulte

Others Present: Meg Chilano – Recording Secretary

I. Call to order:

The meeting was opened at 6:05 pm by Ashley Bateman.

II. Approval of minutes

Motion by: Teresa Siverling

Motion was made to approve the meeting minutes for January 28, 2015 as corrected.

Seconded by: Paul Schulte

Vote for: 5

Abstained: 0

Vote against: 0

Ms. Bateman noted that the members listed as “Others Present” at the February meeting had actually been approved as commissioners, however, notification had not yet gone out.

Motion by: Paul Schulte

Motion was made to approve the meeting minutes for February 25, 2015 as written.

Seconded by: Sharon Burkel

Vote for: 5

Abstained: 0

Vote against: 0

III. Public Hearing: None

IV. Communications sent and received: None

V. Old Business

- A. Raising public awareness.** Ms. Bateman suggested hosting a twice per year workshop. Her idea was to arrange for a contractor specializing in a specific aspect of repair work, such as, painting a house, filling in a column, or some other prevalent problem that homeowners face whether their properties are designated or not. Mrs. Burkel related that some years ago the Landmark Society held a workshop at the College, which was widely advertised and very well attended. Mrs. Siverling and Ms. Bateman agreed that window repair/replacement would make an excellent topic.

Mr. Barnes suggested doing something at the Home Show next year. Mrs. Burkel said that she did not know if the Home Show held workshops, but perhaps the HPC could offer to sponsor one. She commented that the Home Show may want to promote buying new rather than repairing, but it would be worth checking out their policy.

Ms. Bateman asked if the commission should do more designations or should reach out to promote more designations. Mrs. Burkel responded that there are buildings in the City that she believes should be designated. She said that at one time, the commission had a list of properties it thought should be designated. Discussion concerning designating properties without the owners' permission ensued. The topic of trying to designate St. Anthony's community center arose and it was suggested that the Buffalo Diocese may be more agreeable at the present moment.

Ms. Bateman asked the commission to come up with ideas for contractors. Mrs. Siverling recommended asking Mr. Emmans who did the work on his house because that person is very good with historical maintenance and detail. She also said that she knows someone who has done some glass work and that she would check with him. Mrs. Burkel recommended Steve Jordon for his work on windows, and also noted they would develop new ideas from the upcoming conference.

B. Welcome letter. Ms. Bateman passed around the welcome letter which she had composed for the new historic property owners, and invited comment and correction. Mrs. Siverling asked if the commission had a letter they sent out to owners whose properties they want to designate. Mrs. Burkel introduced the subject of the former Falcone's Electric building across from Denny's Restaurant as one she would like to see designated. The commission discussed the building and a photograph of the building, dated 1949, which Ms. Bateman had obtained from the internet. Following the discussion, Ms. Bateman asked if the commission wanted to proceed with seeking to designate the building, but it was agreed to wait until the rest of the commissioners were present. Mrs. Burkel suggested that the commission create a new list of buildings they believe should be designated. Ms. Bateman said that each member should come up with a list for the next meeting and then the commission would create a master list. Ms. Bateman questioned if the letter should be approved by Ms. Kuzon, Director of Public Works. Mrs. Burkel said it was not necessary. The letter was passed around and following a correction, it was agreed to put the letter on file for future use. (See attached.)

[At a later point in the meeting, Mr. Barnes managed to find an old list of desirable properties to designate and there was some discussion about the Baptist Church not being on the list, and Ellicott Avenue as a once proposed historic district.]

C. Redfield Pillars. Ms. Bateman reported that she had received an email from City Manager Jason Molino containing a packet on the Redfield Pillars, which she forwarded to the other commissioners. The packet explains the historical significance of the pillars in the community and requests funding for their repair. A packet was sent to each Senator Chuck Schumer and Congressman Chris Collins. Ms. Bateman read the letter into the minutes. (See attached.)

VI. New Business

A. Tax Credit Workshop. Ms. Bateman stated that there was not much information to pass on to homeowners as she would have wished. Mrs. Siverling reported that she obtained a card from one of the gentlemen at the workshop who told her that they field questions from homeowners who contact them. She said that he told her they handle queries all the time and do not charge for answering questions.

Ms. Bateman asked Mr. Barnes if there were photos of the historic properties. She wanted to know if the City kept old assessment photos. Mr. Barnes was unsure about the City's records,

but he said that the County History Department has fairly recent photos of every property in the City. Ms. Bateman said she thought it would be a good idea to have a record of the designated properties in the City.

VII. Adjournment:

Motion by: Teresa Siverling

Motion was made to close the meeting at 6:46 pm.

Seconded by: Paul Schulte

Vote for: 5

Vote against: 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Meg Chilano