

Town of Marbletown

Historic Preservation Commission

Town Hall
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Rich Parete, Town Supervisor
Susan Sprachman, Town Board Liaison



Commissioners:
Timothy Hunt, Co-Chair
Anthony DiGuiseppe, Co-Chair
Marian McCorkle-Beckerman, Vice Chair
Doug Adams
Claudine Brenner, Secretary
Harry Hansen
Kathy Schulz
Marjorie Shelley
Laura Shane Cunningham

Meeting of the Commission – July 11, 2020

Commissioners Attending (ZOOM): Timothy Hunt
Marian McCorkle-Beckerman
Doug Adams
Laura Shaine Cunningham
Harry Hansen
Kathy Schulz
Marjorie Shelley

Commissioners Absent: Anthony DiGiuseppe
Claudine Brenner

1. Preview of Town Presentation: The formal meeting of the Commission was preceded by a preview of the presentation of the recent survey of historic homes in Marbletown to the 20th Century to the Town Board, scheduled for July 21st. Neil Larson, the consultant who worked on the recent survey update, previewed his presentation and coordinated with Mr. Hunt on their respective portions of the presentation.
2. Call to Order; Minutes: The meeting was called to order at 10:12 AM and a quorum was noted. Mr. Hunt reviewed the agenda. The minutes of the meeting held on June 13, 2020 were APPROVED.
3. Rules of Engagement: The Commission reviewed its Code of Ethics and discussed the role of the Commission in acting as a representative of the Town in its relations with the community. When Commissioners speak in public, they must identify in which role they are speaking: as a resident or member of the Commission. Ms. Schulz noted that the Commission can only act as a body through actions of the Commission, not through individuals. Ideally, only a Chair of the Commission should make public statements on behalf of the Commission. Mr. Hansen suggested the creation of a protocol regarding communications. The Commission discussed various recent matters in which communications issues were relevant. The Commission discussed communications among Commissioners and, with reference to the Code of Ethics, reinforced the need for all communications to be focused on the interests of the Commission and professional in tone and content.

The Commission agreed that, when it has its annual meeting, it will conduct a review of the law which defines the Commissions' role and its Code of Ethics. Ms. Schulz and Mr. Hunt agreed to draft a protocol on communications for review at the Commission's meeting in September.

4. Update on Town Matters: Mr. Hansen reported on Grady Park, describing the limited space of the park given the ADA path along Rt. 213, the need to wait until fall to remove trees given the existing bat habitat, and the salvaging of the lower and upper locks and the old tow path. He reviewed a map of the proposed park and various features. The Commission discussed its focus on historic aspects of the canal and the synergism with the plans for the Canal Museum. The Commission agreed to hold a tour of Grady Park and the D and H Canal Museum in lieu of a meeting in August, with Bill Merchant leading the tour if he is available, starting at 9:30AM on August 8th.
5. Bylaws; Election of Officers: Ms. Schulz reported on the bylaw document which was sent to the Town attorney for review. She agreed to recirculate the document to the Commission. The Commission agreed that it would conduct elections for officers at its meeting in September. All Commissioners were asked to make nominations or self-nominations to Ms. Brenner in preparation for the September meeting.
6. Solar Farm Project in Kripplebush: Ms. Sprachman reported on the June 22nd Town Board hearing and described the various concerns raised about the project including views from Rt. 2, placement of 5 transmission poles, the possibility of using transmission boxes instead, and various concerns about the viewshed over the historic district. The Commission has verbally requested all official documentation regarding the project. Mr. Hansen and Mr. Hunt agreed to follow up to ensure all materials are received. It was noted that it is a highly contentious matter and the Commission's focus must be on historic preservation purview using guidelines and standards on impact.
7. Commission Discussions: The Commission reviewed the discussion at its last meeting regarding the election of a liaison to the Grady Park project, the structure of the Commission and general use of Robert's Rules of Order. While it is desirable that all Commissioners provide their input, it is critically important that all be very conscious of potential conflicts of interest. The Commission agreed that professionalism, respect and adherence to the Code of Ethics were important. Mr. Hunt advised commitment to protecting the mission of the Commission and being as productive as possible. Ms. Schulz noted that the Commissioners did not always have to agree and that it was healthy for any governing body to have respectful disagreements from time to time.
8. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy L. Schulz