

Town of Marbletown

Historic Preservation Commission

Town Hall
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Rich Parete, Town Supervisor
Don LaFera, Town Board Liaison

Anthony DiGuiseppe, Chair
Laura Shaine Cunningham, Vice Chair
John P. Harrington, Secretary
Doug Adams, Treasurer
Scott Davis, Commissioner
Bill Merchant, Commissioner
Marjorie Shelley, Commissioner

MINUTES

Historic Preservation Commission

November 14, 2020

Virtual Meeting

Present:

Anthony DiGuiseppe, Chair
Laura Shaine Cunningham, Vice Chair
Doug Adams, Treasurer
John Harrington, Secretary
Scott Davis, Commissioner
Bill Merchant, Commissioner
Marjorie Shelley, Commissioner

Don LaFera, Town Board Liaison
Rich Parete, Town Supervisor

Susan Sprachman, guest
Laura Cullen, guest

Call to order: Mr. DiGuiseppe called the meeting to order at 9:39 am.

1. Welcome to new Commissioners

Three new Commissioners nominated by Town Supervisor and approved by Town Board at its November 5, 2020 meeting were introduced. Chair reviewed mission and importance of the commission. Dates for new member orientation will be set. Chair affirmed that Commission By-laws, Code of Ethics, and Rules of Engagement will be part of orientation and training. Note: two additional resignations followed

close of previous meeting.

2. Quorum noted; review of minutes, and review of Agenda:

The minutes of the September 12, 2020, meeting were reviewed Doug Adams motioned to accept; Marjorie Shelley seconded. Approved unanimously.

3. Public Hearings:

Roosa Farm House landmark application update: public hearing scheduled at Town Board meeting November 17 at 6:05pm. An additional complete application for the Bloom House designation is expected at next Commission meeting; after review it can be scheduled for public meeting.

4. Bennett Solar Farm; letter to Planning Board review:

Status of Bennett Solar Farm application to Marbletown Planning Board was discussed. The meeting was interrupted by a telephone connection from Town Supervisor Rich Parete. A letter from Commission to Planning Board was reviewed in draft. A new draft from Commission to Town Board will be prepared reiterating opposition to the Bennett Solar Farm project and making recommendations on changes going forward on solar arrays in Historic Districts. It will be circulated as draft to Commissioners for review.

5. Grant applications for 2021:

CLG status with the Commission new membership is under review in Historic Preservation Program in NYS Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. When confirmed, CLG status will renew the Commissions eligibility for state and Federal grants. An application in preparation seeks support for two processes: designation as Historic District for Leggett Road area and also expansion of the High Falls Historic District. Application deadline will be July 2021 with award decisions expected in September 2021.

6. Update on town related businesses and relevant committees:

LeFera will prepare with Chair information on topics likely to be of greatest interest to the Commission.

9. New Ideas:

Commission discussed ideas for development including: additional areas and homes to be considered for designation; communication to more residents about the benefits of historic designation; education for the public about the mission of the Commission; new methods for outreach including web and media strategies;

scheduling meetings at times likely to be most available to the general public; introduction of an awards program for historic preservation; development of physical signage or electronic identification system for historical landmarks

Motion to adjourn was made by Doug Adams and seconded by Bill Merchant; approved unanimously; meeting adjourned at 11:07am. The next regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission is scheduled for December 12; as before, the virtual meeting will be hosted by the commission Chair.

Recorded by HPC Secretary, John Harrington