

Town of Marbletown

Historic Preservation Commission

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

Rich Parete, Town Supervisor
Don LaFera, Town Board Liaison

MINUTES

Historic Preservation Commission

December 12, 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

Absent: Don LaFera, Town Board Liaison

Call to order: Chair Anthony DiGuiseppe called the meeting to order at 9:30am.

1. Quorum noted; review of agenda
2. Commission Orientation.

Chair reviewed scheduling options for orientation for new Commissioners including by-laws and code of ethics; orientation in virtual session is scheduled for January 19, 2021, 4:00pm.

Public posting of commission meeting times through the town staff for wider circulation will be clarified.

3. Approval of November minutes.

Motion: To approve without change the minutes of the meeting of November 14, 2020; moved by Bill Merchant; seconded by Doug Adams; motion approved unanimously.

4. Public Hearing: Roosa Farm House landmark application

Public hearing on the Roosa Farm House landmark designation was opened at Town Board meeting of December 1 and will remain open until Town Board meeting of December 15; presentation by HPC has been completed. The extended public meeting will allow for approval by the Ulster County Planning Board.

Additionally, in January letters will be sent to all registered landmark homes in Marbletown to ensure their registration with Ulster County.

5. Bennett Solar Farm

Discussion continued on possible letter from Commission to Town Board concerning the Bennett Solar Farm project in the Kripplebush Historic District. Other actions and commentaries concerning the project have been filed recently by other parties. The Commission will not issue a public statement at this time, but all Commissioners agree that issues concerning the planning of the project are directly relevant to the Commission's purview and to its charge to "increase public awareness" of the importance and benefits of historic preservation to all residents of Marbletown.

6. Preservation Conference report by attendees.

The 2020 New York Statewide Preservation Conference from December 1-3, 2020, was attended by Commissioners Adams, Cunningham, DiGuseppi, Harrington, and Shelley, who reported on session. Attendance will be recorded in the Commission's annual State Historic Preservation Office report. The Chair will also circulate additional online resources to Commissioners.

7. Bloom House Designation application.

Bloom House application is in preparation and will be submitted first to the Commission for recommendation to the Town Board.

8. Certified Local Government status.

Commission membership with new members has been filed with SHPO and is under review; approval of CLG status will bring state grant eligibility to the Commission.

9. Update on town related business and relevant committees

Item was postponed due to absence of Town Board Liaison

10. New Ideas

The Commission will act to develop public awareness of the value of historic preservation and the centrality of it to the current Town Plan by developing new social media forms for communication. Commissioner Merchant will frame Facebook possibilities and present at the next Commission meeting. Other Commissioners are in contact with local press for feature articles on preservation. Commissioners will also report at next meeting on potential guidelines and funding for a design competition on landmark signage.

Motion: Plan a design competition for landmark signage that will communicate the value of historic designations; moved by Doug Adams; seconded by Marjorie Shelley; passed unanimously.

All Commissioners shared season greetings.

Motion: To adjourn; moved by Doug Adams; seconded by Bill Merchant; approved unanimously at 10:50am.

Next meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission is January 9, 9:30am.