

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
Paul Bogart, Commissioner
Scott Davis, Commissioner
Bill Merchant, Commissioner
John Roosa, Commissioner

MINUTES

Historic Preservation Commission

April 10, 2021

Virtual Meeting

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

Absent: Marjorie Shelley, Associate Commissioner
Paul Bogart, Commissioner
John Roosa, Commissioner
Don LaFera, Town Board Liaison

Guests: Susan Sprachman

1. Call to order: Chair Anthony DiGuiseppe called the meeting to order at 9:40am.
2. Welcome to the new commissioners: orientation session will be scheduled by Chair.
3. Quorum noted; review of agenda.
4. Review of minutes.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the meeting of March 20, 2021; moved by Scott Davis; seconded by Doug Adams; motion approved 5-0-1, abstention for absence at March meeting.

5. Historic Designation Plaques

The committee on designation plaques reported on their meetings since the last HPC meeting. Adams gave a slide presentation on the blue and yellow NYS Historic Signs in and around Marbletown. Discussion addressed maintenance problems with aging signs: Davis agreed to restore one as a trial. Davis then reported on the committee's exploration of new signage, including contact with the NYS Department of Transportation about any road safety concerns.

As next steps, the committee will draft specifications for additional signage. It will also communicate with the Marbletown Highway Department and the Town Board about any new plans for refurbishment of existing blue plaques.

6. Certified Local Government: High Falls Grant Update

The prepared grant application to SHPO for survey of High Falls Historic District and plan for enlargement of it was not submitted for lack of the required Town Supervisor signature. For the second time, the Town supervisor refused to sign off on the SHPO grant we qualified for and for which SHPO had asked us to apply. The survey would have continued our study of historic buildings in Marbletown, extending it to the next time period, and doing more study of HighFalls.

7. Update on Town Related Business

No report was provided in absence of Town Board Liaison.

9. HPC Web Site Update

Bill Merchant is doing photography for the HPC site in development and will report at the next HPC meeting.

10. Renovation Awards Program

Discussion continued on development of a Marbletown historic renovation award as a way to publicize to the community the benefits, including tax incentives, of historic preservation. Plans are in preparation for a public announcement of a town award and for a survey of historic building candidates for a direct mailing to owners.

11. New Business

After concerns were expressed about member commitment to HPC, completion of required historic preservation training, and attendance at meetings, the commission looked to the relevant clauses from the Marbletown Environmental Conservation Commission by-laws now incorporated into an appendix of the municipal code.

These include definition of required participation:

Any member who is absent from three consecutive meetings shall be recommended to the Town Board for removal, unless the ECC votes to the contrary. The ECC may recommend removal of a member to the Town Board, for cause, where the question of such removal has been set forth in the notice of such meeting.

There was no motion for any immediate action on required participation.

Note: Laura Shaine Cunningham, John Harrington, and Bill Merchant attended the Preservation League of NYS Commission Assistance and Mentoring Program (CAMP) on March 29 and March 31, 2021. Commissioner attendance at professional training missions is being tabulated by the Secretary for an annual report.

To avoid any potential scheduling conflicts for commissioners, HPC will alter with the long-standing meeting time of second Saturday of the month in the morning and try other times instead. The commission agreed to experiment with new scheduling for its next meeting: second Thursday of next month, May 13, at 7:00pm [later rescheduled to 6:00pm]].

Bill Merchant also announced to the commission his membership on the new Marbletown Preservation and Investment Commission. Its purpose is to preserve agricultural, environmental, recreational, and historic properties. Merchant will seek to create synergy among the town preservation and ecological commissions.

Motion: To adjourn; moved by Adams, seconded by Davis; approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:55.

Next regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission is Thursday, May 13, 2021, 7:00pm [later rescheduled to 6:00pm].

Recorded by HPC Secretary, John Harrington