

Dear Marbletown Community,

**Have you ever asked: What happened to a particular amazing house in Marbletown? Wondered: Wasn't there once an old barn there? Or thought: How sad what a fire did to that stone house.**

Haven't we, as residents, as well as visiting friends and tourists, marveled at the collection of historic structures in Marbletown. Marbletown has over 400 structures from the 18th and 19th centuries, including 73 that were built in the 18th century. This may be one of the largest collection of historic properties in the country. Our assortment of stone houses, clapboard houses, and barns from the 18th and 19th centuries give Marbletown a rare resource to celebrate and to tell our national history.

**Marbletown recognized by NYS!** This year after multiple competitive applications, the Marbletown Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) and the Town of Marbletown were awarded a \$7,500 grant from the Bureau of Community Preservation Services of the New York Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to conduct a survey of the 18th and 19th century structures in Marbletown. The state grant was supplemented by \$5,000 from the Town of Marbletown, as well as volunteer labor from members of the HPC.

**Why are we doing this new survey?** The **Historic Structures Survey** will update the one completed in 1991 by Ruth Piwonka. Under the auspices of the HPC, Ms Piwonka undertook a survey of 263 historic structures. This survey, unfortunately, collected limited information about each structure, needs correcting or updating and is not in a current digital form that is easily accessible or searchable by the public. The new survey will be more extensive and record pictures of historic properties and information about each of them (approximate date of construction, construction material, etc) into an electronic database supported by NYS.

**Who will conduct the survey?** Consultant Larson Fisher Associates, a well-respected firm based in Woodstock, NY that has conducted over 40 similar surveys, including of the towns of Livingston, Peekskill, Poughkeepsie, Ellenville, and New Paltz, has been retained to assist us in the project over the course of 2018-19. Information about this firm can be obtained from their website, [www.larsonfisher.com](http://www.larsonfisher.com). When the survey is completed in October 2019, the HPC will present a series of meetings to present the results to the community and seek additional funding to design a web-based tool for the community to add stories and narrative that are connected to historic properties.

**What will be required of owners of historic homes?** The methodology of the survey is called a "windshield survey" because it does not involve walking around property or going inside. The surveyors will not require access to your home. Most of their work will be conducted from the street. Some properties are off the road and are thus difficult to access without coming up driveways. Be assured that the staff of Larson Fisher will carry ID badges.

We hope you will allow the surveyors onto your property and, next year, attend the community presentation. If you have any questions about the survey, please contact the HPC at [HPC@marbletown.net](mailto:HPC@marbletown.net).

**Sincerely,** Rich Parete, Marbletown Supervisor, Timothy Hunt, HPC Co-Chair, Project lead Anthony DiGuiseppe, HPC Co-Chair Susan Sprachman, HPC Project Coordinator Harry Hanson, HPC Project Specialist