

TOWN OF VICTOR HISTORIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 5, 2016

PRESENT: Babette Huber, Sue Stehling, Bob Kelly, Bonnie Waters, Ann Aldrich, Silvio Palermo

EXCUSED: Jason Shelton, Michael Houser, Katie Coyne

GUESTS: Cynthia Howk [Western New York Landmark Society], Douglas Fisher

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Vice-Chair Ann Aldrich

Approval of September 7, 2016 Minutes: Tabled-no quorum

PRESENTATION: Cynthia Howk, Western New York Landmark Society

Subject: Preservation Ordinance and Demolition Policy

- Several hundred communities across New York State currently have a preservation ordinance in place. It is a well-established concept, many communities used the model Historic Preservation Law, jointly authored by the Preservation League of New York State and the State Historic Preservation Office as a template. It was published in the late 1980's and revised in 2014. It is available online from either source.
- A community needs to be educated as to the benefit of such an ordinance.
- Town Board, Planning Board, Zoning Board need to be educated.
- Preservation ordinance is one more tool to enhance a community, it would be under the Zoning Board umbrella.
- Town of Perinton is perfect example of a viable Preservation Ordinance, used as a tool to help protect that which needs to be protected.
- Once a preservation ordinance is in place, communities are eligible for Certified Local Government status, this opens up available grant money.
- Achieving implementation of a preservation ordinance can be a long process, involving education of the public, creation of a board, educating the board, presentations to interested parties, workshops, etc.
- Sue / Bonnie to implement a plan / time line to introduce concept of preservation code to the public as well as a plan for implementation.
- Current Victor demolition code needs upgrading. A moratorium on demolition to be researched as to feasibility and legal issues involved.
- Communicate to Town Board that we want a moratorium implementation.
- Have a plan as to why a need for a moratorium.
- Possible workshops / privilege of floor at board meetings
- Need to strengthen and update current demolition permit / code.

Discussion of future of Cole and Parks Restaurant [Simeon Parks Homestead]—as this historic structure may possibly be demolished for construction of a car wash, Cynthia and committee discussed possibility of moving it to a different location away from the current high commercial area. This would, unfortunately, separate the homestead from the family burial ground across the road, but would preserve the home and the early history of the family.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Fishers Ridge update:
Workshop was held with Planning Board, cultural and historic resources of the proposed site were discussed. Paul Powers / Powers Archeological, gave a presentation, he confirmed and approved the DiMarco archeological study but commented that the Denonville- Seneca battle was not in their background information. Planning Board was encouraged to have an archeologist on site when excavation occurs in sensitive areas. Should artifacts be discovered, they will be photo'd, cataloged and preserved, there will be no impact on entire area. There is a concern about the ravine area, a possible highly sensitive area which has never been disturbed or studied. This area is slated to be a main road for the complex. Bob Kelly is researching ways to promote awareness of the historic nature of the property, hopes to meet with Katie Evans, Director of Planning before next meeting.
- Cole and Parks [historic Simeon Parks Homestead]-Developer is interested in purchasing property for construction of a car wash, home possibly would be demolished. No conclusive update.
- Cemetery Preservation and Restoration Committee update-distributed by Bonnie Waters, Chair.
- Historian's Report for September-distributed and discussed. Historian worked total of 50 hours in Sept
- Historic resources mapping-tabled
- Presentation by Friends of Railroad scheduled for November-tabled until 2017.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Preservation Code-Sue and Bonnie will work on a time line and action plan.
- Demolition Code-discussed under PRESENTATION—Babette will research and bring back options to Historic Advisory Committee in November.
- Dewey Tree sign-no update

OBSERVATIONS AROUND TOWN: none

ANNOUNCEMENTS: none

Date for next meeting-November 2, 2016

Motion to adjourn: Bob Kelly, 2nd Sue Stehling. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Minutes taken by Bonnie Waters