

HISTORIC PROPERTIES BOARD

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Town of Somers
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

SOMERS TOWN HOUSE
335 ROUTE 202
SOMERS, NY 10589

EMIL ANTONACCIO
CHAIRMAN



MEETING MINUTES

November 17, 2011

Chair Emil Antonaccio opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m. Supervisor Mary Beth Murphy, Somers Architectural Review Board Member Mark Brown, Somers Historical Society President Emil Antonaccio, resident Architect Ken Bond and Town Historian Doris Jane Smith were present.

Minutes – A motion was made by Mrs. Murphy and seconded by Mr. Brown to accept the minutes of the August 4, 2011 meeting as submitted. All were in favor.

Properties Reports:

Mt. Zion Church

Broken Window Pane – There is a broken window pane on the right side of the altar on the second floor. Mrs. Schirmer will make arrangements to see if Marty Stole is able to fix it.

Plaster – Some of the plaster from the chimney is falling on the second floor.

Wright-Reis Homestead

Summer Kitchen – The Historical Society has purchased the paint and details regarding the project will be provided to the Supervisor so that Mr. Stole can complete this work.

Ice House – The floor of the Ice House needs to be removed and the area filled to grade; masonry work needs to be done on the foundation; and the floor replaced.

Specifications will be drawn up for this project.

Broken Attic Windows – Four broken windows in the attic of the Homestead were replaced by Mr. Stole.

Mailbox and Saw Horse – The mailbox at the top of the Homestead driveway has been removed. Mrs. Schirmer will speak to Parks and Recreation about removing the saw horse.

Alarm System Failure – As a result of the October snowstorm, the phone line was not working in the Homestead, therefore the alarm system was unable to be set. The phone line has been repaired and the alarm system reset.

Fallen Limb – During the snowstorm a large limb broke and is leaning on the roof of one of the barns. Supervisor Murphy gave approval to spend \$325 to have it removed by Abcut Tree Service. The Parks and Recreation Department maintenance staff will remove the debris.

Mold in Interior Back Room – Some mold was noticed in the back room of the Homestead as a result of the hot, humid and damp summer. Society members were able to remove the mold using cleaning supplies and will monitor the area.

Mold on the Exterior of the Homestead – Mold is starting to gather on the exterior of the Homestead. It was suggested that a maintenance rotation schedule for all of the properties be created to deal with some of these issues. At the request of the Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Schirmer will create a chart for review and discussion at the next meeting.

Miscellaneous – As reported by Somers Historical Society Vice President Grace Zimmerman, the Society members have been addressing numerous housekeeping issues, as well as the care of the collections and seeking suitable remediation.

Tomahawk Chapel

Chapel and Cemetery – The Chapel has been primed, the grounds and cemetery weed wacked and the lawn mowed.

Elephant Hotel

Old Bet Statue – Old Bet has been removed and repaired by Mr. Antonaccio. CJ Stones is in the process of repairing the stone base. Old Bet will be remounted and the project totally completed by the beginning of December. Old Bet will be coated to protect it from the weather after it is remounted. A plaque will be placed at the base of the statue listing the dates that it has been worked on since its erection.

OLD BUSINESS

2012 Budget – The 2012 Budget was approved as submitted in the Town Board's Preliminary Budget.

201 Tomahawk Street (Mitchell Subdivision) – The Mitchell Subdivision is in its final stages of approval. The Historic Properties Board's request to add a 6' high cedar stockade fence placed on their property along the Chapel and Cemetery cleared area, with the understanding that the owner must maintain the fence was agreed upon. In addition, the Tomahawk Chapel and Cemetery side of the fence will be screened with tall and thin plantings such as evergreens.

NEW BUSINESS

Buildings and Grounds Inventory – At the request of the Supervisor's office, Mrs. Schirmer completed a Buildings and Grounds Inventory of the Mt. Zion Church, Tomahawk Chapel and Wright-Reis Homestead.

Parking Lot Sign – The sign currently hanging on the chain across the parking lot on Sunderland Lane has to be moved to the post that the chain is attached to, as when the chain is down, the sign can't be read. Mrs. Schirmer will ask the Parks and Recreation maintenance staff if they can move the sign.

Town Historian Report

Going through files and organizing is still a work in progress.

There have been some scout visits to the Homestead and Mt. Zion Church.

Many requests have been made for research and photo identification.

The process of sorting through boxes of artifacts has begun. Some of these items are currently for sale, as many of the donations have no relation to Somers or its history, and there were no specific stipulations regarding the donation.

The family of William B. Johnson, who was the first African American Harley Davidson dealer in Somers, recently donated some of his items to the Society. They use to race motorcycles where Heritage Hills is located today. Mrs. Smith is in the process of doing research for an article they are writing in the Heritage Hills Reporter.

Somers Historical Society Report

A written report was submitted by the Somers Historical Society's Vice President.

The Hudson River Valley Ramble concert scheduled for September in the Mt. Zion Church had to be cancelled due to heavy rain.

A group of Girl Scouts had a tour of the Homestead and participated in a scavenger

hunt.

The Homestead will be open for the holidays on December 4, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. to coincide with the Town's Holiday Celebration.

A new gardening interest group formed by the Newcomers Club is now meeting monthly at the Homestead. In the spring, they will be assisting with garden cleanup and planting.

The 2012 Calendar of Events will be sent to all Historic Properties Board members when it is complete.

On November 6, there was a reception at the Town House for Mrs. Smith to welcome her as the new Town Historian.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 16 at 4:30 p.m. in the Map Room at the Town House.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Somers Historic Properties Board

cc: Town Board
Town Clerk
Somers Historical Society