

HISTORIC PROPERTIES BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

November 20, 2008

Town Historian, Mickey Oliver called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. The following were in attendance: Town Historian Mickey Oliver, Town Supervisor Mary Beth Murphy, Town Curator/Administrator Terry Ariano, Historical Society President Emil Antonaccio, Architectural Review Board Member Ken Bond and Parks & Recreation Board Vice Chairman Jim Papa.

MINUTES

Mr. Papa made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 23, 2008 meeting. Mr. Antonaccio seconded the motion. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Wright-Reis Homestead

Siding on South Side of Dairy Barn & Missing Boards on Carriage House Ice House, etc. - Mrs. Ariano met with a carpenter from Tecumseh Woodworking regarding repairs needed to the ice house and horse, dairy and carriage barns. She also discussed plaster work that needs to be done in the Homestead. The proposal will be completed in time for the December Town Board meeting.

Report from Conservator - Mrs. Ariano has the draft and an unbound copy of the final report prepared by Paul Himmelstein. She is still waiting for the official final copy.

Gate - The Town Board approved the expenditure to have Garon Fence erect a 14 foot double farm style gate at the border of the Homestead and Reis Park. Mr. Antonaccio would like to be present when the installation takes place.

Water Filters - Mr. Antonaccio changed the water filters. Mrs. Ariano has purchased a few more. At this point the filter does not have to be changed very often, but when the house is being used on a more frequent basis, it will have to be changed more often.

Kitchen Sink - Mr. Antonaccio repaired the kitchen sink.

Barn Windows - Additional windows have been broken over the last couple of days. Once the new gate is installed and signs are erected hopefully this problem will be rectified.

Alarm Unarmed - There has been a problem with the alarm repeatedly left unarmed after meetings held in the Homestead by the Historical Society and the Northern Westchester Watercolor Society.

Electric - The hall light is not working and some of the basement lights. Mrs. Ariano will ask Jerry Rutter to look at the lights.

Shelves and Fans - The Town Supervisor approved the purchase of shelves and fans for the collections.

Mt. Zion

Tree in Gravestone Area - A tree fell before the Town Board gave approval to go to contract to remove this tree. Lincolndale Landscaping removed the tree and ground the stump. They also ground another stump at no charge.

Windows - Two windows were broken on the east side of the church.

Gutters - The Parks and Recreation maintenance staff cleaned the gutters. The lead elbow on the gutter was disconnected near the area where the leak was on the inside of the church. Steve Ernst reattached it and hopefully that will rectify the leak situation.

Money Transfer - Money had to be transferred from the Wright-Reis Homestead fund to the Mt. Zion fund to pay for the electric bill and the tree removal work.

Gift from Frank Family for Wedding Ceremony - The Frank family made a \$200 donation to the Historical Society and it was earmarked for Mt. Zion. Mrs. Ariano would like to use the money to put the two stoves back into the church. They are currently being stored in one of the barns at the Homestead. A plaque will be placed near them in honor of the Frank family. In the future when someone wants to use the church they should be charged a fee that is payable to the Parks and Recreation Department to compensate one of their employees to clean before and after use, and open and close the building.

Tomahawk Church and Cemetery

Windows - Eight windows are broken.

Grounds - Mr. Bond visited the chapel for the first time since the last meeting and expressed in an email that he "found it very moving to see a so called "Town of Somers Historical Site" in such disrepair". He also reported that two large branches fell from one of the trees onto one of the family plots. Mrs. Ariano echoed Mr. Bonds sentiments. The grounds are in terrible shape. They need to be cleared and maintained. The Parks and Recreation Maintenance staff will remove the branches that fell on the family plot. Mr. Bond also reported that

during his visit he noticed that a window in the church was open. There are a lot of weak spots around the building. One window sill is so badly buckled that the window cannot even be closed. There is a lot of growth around the tombstones. The perimeter of the building needs desperately to be cleared. It was suggested that after the 2009 budget is approved, a list of prioritized projects be created and some of the 2009 funds be used to take care of some of the work that needs to be done. This should happen at the January meeting. Lincolndale Landscaping gave a proposal of \$2,500 to do tree work, remove the tulip tree, locust tree, dead and leaning trees and trim what is against the building. Unfortunately this project cannot be completed as there is no money available at the moment.

Elephant Hotel

Specs for Windows - Three proposals have been received for writing the window restoration specifications from Stephen Tilly, Michael Lynch and Marilyn Kaplan. Mr. Bond will review them and make a recommendation to the Town Board by December 4.

Elephant Hotel Sign - Monarch, an artisan painter submitted a proposal that was approved at the November 13 Town Board meeting to repaint the lettering on the front of the hotel. State grant money will be used. The project will be completed in the spring.

NEW BUSINESS

Split Rail Fence Next to Old Bet House - Mrs. Murphy will see if Marty can take a look at the fence to see if he can repair it.

Pulverized Floor Bricks in Basement of Elephant Hotel - Don Derr noticed that some of the floor bricks in the basement are pulverizing. Mrs. Murphy will have Marty sweep the area and buy a mat to place over the affected area.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 15 at 4:30 p.m. in the Map Room at the Town House.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Historic Properties Board

cc: Historic Properties Board
Historical Society
Town Clerk

