

**SOMERS HISTORIC PROPERTIES BOARD  
335 Route 202, Somers, NY 10589**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**May 21, 2009**

Town Historian, Mickey Oliver called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. The following were in attendance: Town Historian Mickey Oliver, Historical Society President Emil Antonaccio and Parks & Recreation Board Vice Chairman Jim Papa.

**MINUTES**

Mr. Antonaccio made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 19, 2009 meeting. Mr. Papa seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**PROPERTIES REPORTS**

**Wright-Reis Homestead**

**Sugar Maple** - The sugar maple behind the dairy barn is compromised. Mrs. Ariano will speak to George Wahlers of Lincolndale Landscaping to get an opinion as to what has to be done.

**Gate Signs** - Three "No Trespassing" signs are needed. The locations are as follows: on the new gate, at the top of the Homestead driveway and on Sunderland Lane. Mr. Papa will ask the Parks and Recreation maintenance staff if they could purchase two pressure treated posts and install them on top of the driveway for that sign. Payment for the posts will be made from the Wright-Reis Homestead account. Mr. Antonaccio will pick up some chain. In addition, a change needs to be made to the sign at the border of Reis Park and the Homestead, the directional arrow pointing toward the Homestead has to be removed. Mr. Papa will make arrangements to have that done by the Parks and Recreation maintenance staff.

**Birdhouse** - There is a birdhouse on top of an antique pole that needs to be replaced. Mr. Antonaccio reported that the carpentry club at Heritage Hills will be making a new birdhouse.

**Mt. Zion**

There was nothing to report this month.

**Tomahawk Chapel and Cemetery**

**Grounds** - A local Boy Scout troop has "adopted" the Chapel and Cemetery and

will maintain/clean it on a regular basis. They have done a lot to date and the grounds look wonderful. Mr. Papa will speak to Mr. Ralston to see if his staff can mow the lawn on a regular basis. Mr. Papa also asked that Mrs. Ariano get a copy of the Boy Scouts insurance rider.

**Windows** - Mr. Bond's conditions report indicated that all eight of the existing windows need attention. Three sills need repair or replacement. Mr. Antonaccio determined that the sills don't need to be milled. He can repair them. Twenty window panes have to be replaced and all existing panes need to be reglazed. Mr. Antonaccio would like Mrs. Ariano to speak to the Town Supervisor to see if Marty Stole can complete this portion of the project over the summer. A discussion also needs to take place about installing latches on the windows so they are always shut and locked.

## **Elephant Hotel**

**Specs for Windows** - Three proposals were received for writing the window restoration specifications. Mr. Bond reviewed them and made a recommendation that the Town Board discussed at their December 4 meeting. The project was approved, but Mrs. Murphy had to check with Senator Leibell's office to see if the grant funds were still available. She recently received a call regarding the project, so hopefully things are moving along.

**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.

**Courtroom Emergency Exit** - The Court Department has received grant money to remove an existing window and install an egress only door in case of an emergency in the Meeting Room at the Town House. At the request of the Board, Mrs. Schirmer will send a memo to the Town Board requesting that they engage Roy Van Lent to draw up the plans for this project, as he is the Architect who drew up the plans for that room when it was added in 1959. Additionally, the Historic Properties Board is requesting that they review the plans before a final decision is made.

## **CURATOR'S REPORT**

Mrs. Ariano was not present. She provided Mrs. Oliver with the following report:

### **Wright-Reis Homestead**

The latch was pried off the carriage barn door. Nothing was stolen. A police report was filed. Steve Ernst replaced the latch and bolted it on.

Marty Stole has almost completed the glass replacement and is repairing a window sash in the horse barn.

On May 27, 28 and June 2, the 4<sup>th</sup> graders from the Somers Intermediate School will be visiting the Homestead.

The Boy Scouts who maintain the Chapel grounds and cemetery are assisting Mrs. Ariano with cleaning out the barns. This is being done today.

The Junior Historians planted an herb garden in front of the summer kitchen.

Recently, the property was mowed, but there are many outer areas that are overgrown including the walkway to the pond and behind the barns. A clean up day needs to be organized.

Some minor carpentry work is needed to the fascia under the porch at the top of

the front stone steps. Additionally, some filling and repairs need to be made to the porch rails and columns.

### **Tomahawk Chapel and Cemetery**

The Town Board approved the proposal to remove the Tulip Tree. The work will be done by Lincolndale Landscaping.

The Boys Scouts did a wonderful job cleaning the grounds. They will be returning. Mrs. Ariano met with them to tell them about the history of the Chapel.

### **Mt. Zion**

The broken window pane in the Church was repaired.

The Cemetery looks good. Weed whacking was done around the stones and it is ready for mowing. Several stones are in need of conservation, but funds are not available.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Eagle Scout Project** - Nicholas Maenza is still working on his Eagle Scout project at Todd Cemetery. He is researching the history of the cemetery, and preparing a conditions report on the gravestones.

Last month a question came up as to whether or not the Town has any jurisdiction over the cemetery. According to a letter that Mrs. Oliver has from Harry Chambers, the Town Attorney in the 1950's, it indicates that it does. The current Town Attorney, Roland Baroni was solicited for a legal opinion regarding this topic and he concurred that the Town is responsible for the maintenance of abandoned cemeteries.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Plantings** - Mr. Antonaccio commented on the lovely job the Girl Scouts did planting flowers in the planters at the Elephant Hotel.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 16 at 4:30 p.m. in the Map Room at the Town House. The 2010 budget will be addressed at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary  
Historic Properties Board

cc: Historic Properties Board  
Historical Society  
Town Clerk