

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

MEETING MINUTES

July 16, 2009

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 May 21, 2009 meeting. Mr. Antonaccio seconded the motion. All were in favor.

PROPERTIES REPORTS

Wright-Reis Homestead

Sugar Maple - George Wahlers of Lincolndale Landscaping looked at the sugar maple and said that the trunks are solid, and it seems to be okay for now, but it should be checked regularly.

Birdhouse - There is a birdhouse on top of a pole that needs to be replaced. It is tightly secured and will take some work to remove. The carpentry club at Heritage Hills will be making a new birdhouse.

Ice House Roof - The roof on the ice house has a hole in it and it needs to be replaced. The shingles are made of wood. Mrs. Murphy will do some research as to funding that might be available to complete this project. Mr. Bond will try and come up with some names of roofers who install wood roofs. Three proposals are needed, and only one contractor has been identified. If the roof is not replaced soon, the structure will be compromised.

Miscellaneous - There is a cherry tree near the barn that has to be trimmed, and the branches that are resting on the barn roof have to be removed. Mr. Wahlers gave a proposal of \$100.00 to do the work. In addition, there is a dead cherry tree on the other side of the stone wall behind the Homestead that needs to be removed. The proposal for that project is \$400.00. Mr. Papa made a motion to approve a \$500.00 expenditure to Lincolndale Landscaping to perform the tree work needed. Mr. Antonaccio seconded the motion. All were in favor.

There are some other minor carpentry repairs that need to be done at the Homestead. There is a rotted fascia board under the front porch. Some of the

molding details on the front porch columns has falling off and needs to be reattached. A gutter has pulled away from the Homestead and has to be repaired. This work could be added in to roof replacement bids.

Mrs. Ariano asked the Parks and Recreation Department Park Foreman Steve Ernst, if they could remove the pile of debris by the lower barn, and also clear the brush away from the back of the horse and carriage barns.

Textile collection work continues, and Mrs. Ariano was happy to report that no more windows have been broken.

Mt. Zion

Painting the interior of the Church was discussed. It was agreed however that this was not a priority.

Tomahawk Chapel and Cemetery

Windows - Marty Stole has replaced all of the broken panes of glass and is in the process of re-glazing them. Mr. Antonaccio will be making some window repairs, and a discussion needs to take place about installing latches on the windows so they are always shut and locked.

Grounds - A local Boy Scout troop has "adopted" the Chapel and Cemetery and will maintain/clean it on a regular basis. Hopefully they will return before the end of the summer. Mr. Papa spoke to Mr. Ralston to see if his staff could mow the lawn on a regular basis. To date, they have not been there. Thankfully, the neighbor, Gary Mitchell has been mowing from time to time, but the property is in desperate need of being weed wacked. Mr. Papa will speak to Mr. Ralston again. It would be ideal if the weeds could be taken care of three times over the course of the season, but they have to be careful of the gravestones. Mr. Mitchell has also been spreading mulch in the front of the porch to make the ground more level.

Tulip Tree - The tulip tree was removed, but the large wood was left. Mrs. Ariano has contacted Lincolndale Landscaping for a proposal to chip the wood and deliver it to the Homestead.

Elephant Hotel

Windows - Mrs. Murphy reported that the grant money is now available. Tammi Savva has the contract and can explain to Mrs. Ariano how to process payments. Some of the money will be used to pay for the brick restoration that was done. The remainder will be dedicated to the window work. The first step in the process is for Mrs. Ariano and Mr. Bond to meet with Marilyn Kaplan of Preservation Architecture, to discuss a proposal for the specifications for the

window restoration project.

Elephant Hotel Sign - Monarch, an artisan painter submitted a proposal that was approved at the November 13, 2008 Town Board meeting to repaint the lettering on the front of the hotel. Some of the State grant money will be used for this project as well. When Mrs. Ariano meets with Mrs. Kaplan, she will find out whether or not the painting can be completed before or after the window restoration.

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. In May, the Historic Properties Board sent a memo to the Town Board requesting that they engage Roy Van Lent to draw up the plans for this project, as he was the Architect who drew up the plans for that room when it was added in 1959. Unfortunately, by the time the Town Board received that memo, they already accepted an offer from an architect in Town who offered to draw up the plans at no charge. Mr. Bond did review the plans and the Town Building Inspector should have three bid proposals for the project by the end of the week. The top of the door will look like the windows that already exist. Mrs. Murphy will make arrangements for Mr. Bond to review those final plans.

Todd Cemetery

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.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

Reynolds House - The LION's Club will be replacing the roof on the Reynolds House. Pictures of roofing samples will be distributed to the Board via email so that the Historic Properties Board can make a recommendation to the Architectural Review Board as to what shingle they prefer. At some point in the future, the house will be restored and used as a caretaker's residence for the Angle Fly Preserve.

Departmental Functions - At the request of the Town Supervisor, in preparation for the 2010 Town budget, all Town Department Heads were asked to provide an outline of the functions of their department, categorizing these functions as essential, necessary or discretionary. Mrs. Oliver and Mrs. Ariano completed this task and gave the Board copies of what was submitted.

2010 Budget - Both the mortgage and sales tax revenues are down, which will result in about a \$500,000 deficit in the Town's projected revenues for 2009. The goal for 2010 is to reduce the budget if at all possible. Mrs. Oliver prepared a draft for review. After a lengthy discussion, a decision was made to increase the budget by only \$1000.00 for the security alarms at the Tomahawk Chapel and Mt. Zion Church.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 17 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
Parks & Recreation Department