

Rockland County Historic Preservation Board

January 22, 2024 Minutes

Robert L. Yeager Health Center, Building T
50 Sanatorium Road
Pomona, NY 10970

Members Present: Gillian Ballard, Beth Brown, Mary Cardenas, Claudia Cooney, Marianne Leese, Craig Long, Robert Masiello
Members Absent: Stacy Alessio, Lisa Levin, Peter Scheibner, Charles "Skip" Vezzetti
Staff: Michael Kezner, Rockland County Planning Department
Others in attendance: Rich Schiafo, Jake Palant, & Cole Warren, Rockland County Planning Department

Call to Order: The meeting began at 3:34 PM.

- 1. Introductions:** Board Chair Craig Long welcomed everyone to the meeting. Each person introduced themselves. Craig congratulated Beth on her recent appointment to the Board.
- 2. Review of November 20, 2023 Draft Minutes:** Marianne submitted a minor wording alteration by email. Robert questioned whether he mentioned a cemetery in Stony Point as part of the discussion on the request Michael had received requesting information to help a citizen identify where certain veterans were buried. He was not sure if it was pertinent to the topic. The Board did not remember him bringing this cemetery up and determined that, while it was not relevant to the specific request, if he had any additional information on the cemetery and who is buried there, he should provide it at a future meeting. On a motion made by Robert, and seconded by Beth, the minutes were unanimously approved with the minor correction.
- 3. October 23, 2023 Minutes:** Craig received a letter from the Board President of the Friends of Harmony Hall – Jacob Sloat House, a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of Harmony Hall. They requested that he retract the following statement made documented in Item 7 of the October minutes of the Board:

Craig noted that Ramapo owns several historic sites such as Harmony Hall and Crow House, but they did not set up any mechanisms to fund them, so the buildings have become derelict.

Craig explained that he meant that the previous administration in the Town of Ramapo acquired certain historic sites but were derelict in setting up proper mechanisms to fund their upkeep. If it were not for organizations like the Friends of Harmony Hall, these sites would likely not receive proper maintenance. Marianne made a motion to amend

the October 23, 2023 minutes to reflect this correction, seconded by Robert. The amendment was approved unanimously.

In the same letter, the Board was invited to host a future meeting at Harmony Hall.

4. **Rockland County Historic Driving Map:** Beth indicated that the County Department of Economic Development & Tourism has a historic driving map of the county that they are looking to update. She noted that the Board was a big help when they first developed the map in 2016. She was hoping the Board members could take a look at the existing map and determine if anything should be added, changed, or removed from the map. Claudia asked if it was available online. Beth stated that they could put a pdf document online, but there is not anything there now. She handed out a few pamphlets and will provide more at the next meeting. A discussion occurred regarding what was currently on the map. Beth said they were hoping to get the update finished as soon as possible and asked if everyone could provide their comments to her by the next Board meeting.
5. **American Cruise Lines:** Beth also noted that she was contacted by someone from American Cruise Lines. They have cruises that travel the Hudson River and are looking to make a stop in Rockland. They are still in the early stages, but are looking for people who might be interested in talking to cruise patrons about the history of the area. This would be a paid position. If anyone is interested or know someone who might be, they should contact Beth who will put them in touch with the cruise line.
6. **Planning Website – Historic Places in Rockland County:** Michael debuted the new County website to the Board. The URL is <https://www.rocklandcountyny.gov/>. The content is the same but is cleaner and easier to navigate. He then directed them to the Historic Places in Rockland County subpage on the Planning Department's page. He asked if anyone had any information that should be corrected or added to the existing content on the page and that if anyone had any locations that should either be added or removed, to let him know.
7. **Properties of Concern:** Robert mentioned that there is a proposal to building 250-300 apartments on a portion of the Letchworth Village property in Haverstraw. It is north of the golf course.

Robert also provided an update on the new park in Haverstraw that was discussed at the past several meetings. Phases 2 and 3 will depend on money, but they are planning to add a multi-purpose building to the site. They are currently adding three pickleball courts.

Claudia stated that they have the funding and are looking for bids to rebuild the west wall at the John Greene House in Nyack. They have already restored the front wall that faces Main Street.

Marianne discussed the Chair Factory site in Haverstraw. They are proposing a hotel and three multi-family apartment buildings totaling 450 units, 43 percent of which will be affordable. One of the buildings will also be mixed-use with commercial on the ground floor. The 13.4-acre site will include 4.2 acres of parkland. The project is in sight of the Kings Daughter Public Library and the post office, both of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement has been posted to the Village's website.

8. Old Business: No old business was discussed.

9. New Business: No new business was discussed.

10. Next Meeting Date: The next meeting will be held on February 26, 2024 at 3:30. It is scheduled to be held at the new Rockland County Highway Facility located at 26 Scotland Hill Road, Chestnut Ridge, NY 10977.

Adjournment: On a motion made by Gillian, and seconded by Robert, the meeting was adjourned at 4:17 PM.