

Rockland County Historic Preservation Board

October 21, 2024 Minutes
Rockland County Planning Department
50 Sanatorium Road, Building T
Pomona, NY 10970

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

Call to Order: The meeting began at 3:30 PM.

- 1. Introductions:** Board Chair Craig Long welcomed everyone to the meeting. Rachel introduced herself as the new Senior Planner in the Planning Department.
- 2. Review of September 16, 2024 Draft Minutes:** Claudia noted that mention of the Peter DePew House should be corrected to the Hudson House within her discussion of the John Green House in the Properties of Concern section. On a motion made by Beth, and seconded by Claudia, the minutes were unanimously approved as amended.
- 3. Section 106 Review:** Michael informed the Board that they had received two requests to comment on the impacts of the installation of telecommunication features on historical resources in the area as part of the Section 106 review. One was to replace existing features on the water tower at 55 Railroad Avenue in Garnerville. The other was for the installation of a 46-foot-tall tower at 200 Reagan Road in New Square. No one had any comments. Michael will send out a letter for each stating such.
- 4. Properties of Concern:** Mary stated that windows have been installed at the Carson McCullers house. The interior also looks like it is almost complete. Beth said that Rivertown Film would be showing a documentary on Carson McCullers at the Nyack Center. The film is called Wunderkind: Carson McCullers.

Lisa noted that Montebello is starting the process to update their Comprehensive Plan, last updated in 2017. The Historic Preservation & Parks Commission (HPPC) is trying to get them to strengthen the preservation verbiage in the Plan. The HPPC has also been seeing more requests for Certificates of Appropriateness to tear down older buildings and put up more generic two-story houses, mostly along Viola Road.

Craig commended Stacy on her article that was recently published in The Orangetown.

- 5. Old Business:** Michael reminded everyone to complete their mandatory trainings if they have not done so already. An in-person session will be offered on October 30 for those that would prefer to complete it that way.

Pete discussed Eagle Bay. He gave a brief background on the Stony Point Battlefield and on the Eagle Bay development proposed adjacent to it. He then presented a report from Scenic Hudson which detailed their concerns about the development, including screening of the buildings, flooding, and a reduction in the proposed density and height.

- 6. New Business:** Marianne recapped the Historical Society's bus tour of old Dutch barns in the County. One of the stops was at the Orchards of Conklin, which has a Dutch-hybrid barn. Since it is on County property, she felt the Board could potentially hire a consultant to see if it is eligible for the National Register. This could be discussed further at the next meeting. Her and Mary discussed the barn, noting that it is built on a slope with a brick foundation and is currently being used. Marianne believes that it is the seventh barn in the County with Dutch features that is still standing.

Michael mentioned that it is time to complete the Annual Report for the Certified Local Government (CLG) program. He was going to reach out the CLG rep, who mentioned that she was working to develop an Annual Report geared specifically towards Counties, as their role is different than local municipalities. Regardless, him and Craig would work together to complete it before the deadline in November.

- 7. Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting will be held on November 18, 2024 at 3:30 PM in the Building T conference room.

Adjournment: On a motion made by Mary, and seconded by Pete, the meeting was adjourned at 4:04 PM.