

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF MONTEBELLO WAS HELD ON THURSDAY JUNE 12, 2008 AT VILLAGE HALL. THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:40 PM

Roll call.

Members present: Hannelore Renud
Josephine Bracken-Chairwoman
Sandra Ward
Wayne Leone

Others present: Warren Berbit-Village Attorney
Bill Pfaff-Architect

Members absent: Chantal Schwartz
Valerie Rainford

Mr. Julian Adams from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation is in attendance tonight. Chairwomen Bracken gave a summary of how the Historic Preservation Commission came to be and what projects have been given historical designation up to now.

Mr. Adams has model evaluation forms that the Commission can use to revise their forms. Rockland County has done an in-depth study on structures around our Village; they picked out homes they thought should be granted as historical designations. Member Ward is involved with the renovation of her families' historic home. She and Chairwomen Bracken, with the help of the internet found useful information from other municipalities' regarding their processes and procedures with historic preservation. Members asked Mr. Adams an array of questions about grants, how to apply for them, what they can be used for, and restrictions on uses. Can there be penalties, if so, what would they be? What incentives are given if homeowners agree to designate their property as "historic".

Mr. Adams gives an in depth presentation about the Certified Local Government family. Montebello became the 61st in NY State to become a CLG. Montebello is the first municipality in Rockland County to go all the way as a CLG with the State. There is an internet newsletter with message boards to read with lots of answers to questions about anything Historic. A booklet packet containing useful information regarding Local Commissions will be given to each member. He urged everyone to apply for grant monies. The deadline is July 31, 2008. The State offers to pay members to attend seminars to learn about historic preservation. Members asked about applying for a grant to have an historic architect survey the Village. Mr. Adams say's that is a wise decision. An annual report will be required from CLG communities that consist of a short form,

very straight forward and simple. If not filled out it counts against the municipality. Members discuss different types of homes in Montebello, which ones can be classified as historic.

Before the meeting Mr. Adams reported driving around the Village and noticed a lot of landmarks from the 18th & 19th century. He suggested that our HPC look at our 20th century landmarks. Members discussed the Bayard Lane area. There was discussion on particular Historic Districts in New York State, district boundaries, individual landmarks. Mayor Oppenheim suggested designating Village Hall as a historic district; Mr. Adams agrees and states he would recommend that as well because it sets a good example. There also was discussion on integrity. It is the HPC's job to guide the homeowner when restoring a historic structure. "Residential hardship" was discussed and how much leeway the HPC can grant a developer/builder/homeowner due to a hardship. Members feel very informed with all the information Mr. Adams has given. He will return at any time the members may need him. Agreement documents are signed by the Village and HPC, and then New York State will sign them and they will be sent back to the Village.

Member Renud motioned to adjourn @ 9:00 p.m., Member Ward seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.