

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF MONTEBELLO WAS HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2015 AT THE MONTEBELLO VILLAGE HALL. THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 8:00 PM, FOLLOWED BY THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL WAS TAKEN.

Roll call.

Members Present: Lisa Levin – Chairman
Matt Moetzing
William Ellsworth
Dorice Madronero

Members Absent: Rosemary Mocio
William Smith

Others Present: Warren E. Berbit, Village Attorney

Others Absent: Craig Long-Village Historian

Shelly Flanagan-Ramos-Deputy Village Clerk -Transcriber of Minutes

First item on the agenda was discussion on historical markers.

Chairman Levin spoke with Historian Long who advised he will be speaking with Attorney Berbit for input on language to be placed on the marker. The matter must then go before the Village Board for approval. Ms. Levin suggested all four historic properties be landmarked with a marker and thought a discount may be given if ordered at the same time.

It was stressed how extremely important it is for people to know that these four locations are historic; there is no indication of such.

Chairman Levin will speak to the historian about starting the verbiage for the other property markers.

Recently a tree recently fell on one of the homes located on the 84 Viola Road historic property. Member Ellsworth spoke to the property owner Linda Dimick, who advised the resident living in the small home at the time has moved, eventually the home will be torn down due to the extensive damage from the tree. The larger white house on the property has a resident, but the home is not in good repair as the interior is falling apart. Ms. Dimick mentioned the property is for sale, and hoped to possibly get a buyer that was interested in horses, as the large parcel is zoned for having such.

New Business:

The CLG Grant was retroactively ratified. The Board requested funding for a more broad scenic and historic roads survey. This type of survey will cover a stone wall inventory, which will put in place recommendations for preservation ordinances to protect the rock walls throughout the village, as well as old fences, old piers and anything comparable in relation to the pathways of the roads.

Member Ellsworth mentioned Orange and Rockland removing a lot of trees on Spook Rock and Viola Road. This does not make the area look very desirable. Member Moetzinger did not think it is part of a widening program, but a storm hardening program.

A motion was made by Chairman Levin to ratify the CLG Grant for a Scenic and Historic Roads Study, and make a recommendation to the Village Board for this funding, seconded by Member Ellsworth, motion carried unanimously.

Warren Berbit arrived at the meeting.

Member Madronero questioned whether a five year update of the Architectural Historic Reconnaissance Survey should be performed. Chairman Levin noted that after speaking with Jill Fisher, from Larson Fisher Associates, the suggestion was made to prolong the survey about 15 years, due to the fact that not a lot changes in 5 years. It would be a waste of funding in her opinion; she recommended the scenic and historic study of the rockwalls.

Attorney Berbit stated the Village Board approved up to \$12,500 for this study, matching 40% of the funds.

Chairman Levin brought Mr. Berbit up to speed with the historic marker discussion earlier in the meeting. He questioned how much each marker would cost, and suggested serializing each marker. It may be less expensive. Member Madronero stated the Rockland County Historical Society put a small round medallion marker at their site, it's a couple thousand dollars. Ms. Levin recommended a village crest, if there is one, or a serial number, which one could refer back to.

Next on the agenda is officially designating members to keep an eye on the conditions of the historical landmarks, and report back to the Building Inspector if there are things going on at the property that are not in compliance with the historic preservation regulations. Village Hall does not need attention. Member Moetzinger will monitor Fant Farm, Member Madronero will take the Johnson Property on Viola Road, she asked about the Viola Road cemetery, that property is not under village jurisdiction, the village did however do a one-time clean-up.

There was discussion on the cemetery near 449 Haverstraw Road, which has about ½ dozen grave sites. There is not a historical marker on this property which dates back to the 1700's. The property is landlocked. It is not on Montebello's historical registry, but members all agreed it should have a marking.

Members discussed other significant properties, and what was housed at them in the past.

Member Ellsworth brought up the issue of storage cabinets, and suggested a few be put in the Community Center for things the HPC accumulates. The Village Board would have to approve this.

Newsletter article assignments were allotted for the year, Spring will be Lisa, Summer, Matt, Fall, Dorice, and Winter, Rosemary.

Member Ellsworth mentioned the NETR website. It's a site where you can input addresses to see aerial views of properties from different years, some dating back 100 years. It a very easy site to navigate.

Member Madronero thought members would be interested in the University of Connecticut website regarding stone walls. It's a comprehensive program they have about the geology of stones. Ms. Levin has the information if anyone was interested.

A motion was made by Member Madronero and seconded by Member Moetzinger to adjourn the meeting, all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.