

Village of Skaneateles
Historical Landmarks Preservation Commission
June 13, 2012
Administrative Discussion

Present: Patricia Blackler, Chairman, HLPC
Katharine Dyson, Member
Ted Kinder, Member
Karlene Miller, Member
Dave Neibert, Member
Andrew Ramsgard, Member
Mona Smalley, Member
Beverly White, Member

Dennis Dundon, Clerk to the Historical Commission

Chad Rogers, Skaneateles
Pam Watson, Skaneateles

Absent: Carol Young, Member

The Commission moved into discussion of its plan to review all buildings within the district and to make preliminary determinations of the specific attributes of each which have historical preservation interest. The members had previously decided to assign a group of buildings to each member to be photographed and catalogued as part of this undertaking.

Some members have agreed to assigned areas to be surveyed by the members:

- Ramsgard – all of Jordan Street
- Miller -- 1 – 14 on E Genesee
- Blackler – 18 – 33 E Genesee
- Kinder – 36 – 56 E Genesee
- Neibert -- 58 – 68 E Genesee
- Young – 74 – 86 E Genesee
- The rest were to be assigned to the other members not present.

The members took the opportunity to be introduced to Chad Rogers, and architect with the King & King firm, and a Skaneateles resident. He received his degree from Penn State, then practiced in Boston with a mid-sized firm working on residential and commercial engagements. He returned to the area about three years ago. He is present to determine potential interest in being part of the Commission. The Chairman recapped that the members recommend people for vacancies and the Village Board appoints new members.

Member Ramsgard recapped the current nature of the Historic District, its 70 component properties, and its 500 foot impact zone. Chairman Blackler repeated that the Commission's goal is to have a good feel for the architecturally important building attributes, of each building in the district, so that they may be easily reviewed with an applicant.

Member Ramsgard had prepared photos of the Seitz building for review, as an illustration of the process. Continuing, he illustrated how the later addition to the building, while attractive, cannot be seen from within the historic district, preserving the appropriateness of the original gabled roof. He described how the bracket details and the frieze board details are important to the building and should not be lost or changed during maintenance replacement, when/if necessary. He discussed the header and sill details that project past the window and forward past the plane of the building, as being interesting and important.

The brick buildings that today stand exposed, were in most cases meant to be painted, rather than left natural. That explains the use of differing colors and textures of brickwork within the same structure. The different storefront details have probably been changed in many iterations so there is probably little architectural importance or significance contained there. These areas have been changed and will be changed again in the future. But compatibility with the rest of the building and retention of the corner storefront quoin details are likely important. Continuing to the rear of the original building (west façade), there is little that makes a contribution. Mr. Ramsgard described one of the storefront windows on Jordan Street -- it is a large hinged window that allowed cars to be driven into the Model T dealership.

By using a similar approach of group review for each building, the Commission can develop consensus and document the disparate opinions of the members. By leaving notes for the future, others will know what this Commission felt was important.

Mr. Kinder described some ideas that his group has to make some changes in the Seitz building that are more in keeping with the building, including putting back in the transoms with the signage for the occupant.

As part of the process of the members documenting these buildings, additional photos will need to be taken at the right time of year, without leaves on the trees, wide scope plus close-ups so the details are apparent. Member Ramsgard agreed to determine if we need all the detail listed on the inventory form. The method of attachment for signs is important, not the color or logo arrangement. Member Dyson believes that vertical hanging signs might be quaint; other members expressed disagreement.

The members reaffirmed their coverage areas:

- Ramsgard – all of Jordan Street
- Miller -- 1 – 14 on E Genesee
- Blackler – 18 – 33 E Genesee
- Kinder – 36 – 56 E Genesee
- Neibert -- 58 – 64 E Genesee
- Dyson -- 68 – 86 E Genesee
- White – 75 – 91 E Genesee

- Smalley – 94 – 103 E Genesee
- Rogers -- 104 – 116 E Genesee, plus 3 Fennell and 12 W Genesee.

Pam Watson, who had been observing the meeting, introduced herself as a semi-retired architectural historian and certified preservation specialist, who has just recently moved to the Village. She taught at the college level in Colorado and served as preservation planner for the city of Frederick, MD. The members welcomed her.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 11, 2012. The Chair encouraged the members to have some of their homework completed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Dundon
Clerk to HLPC