

Village of Skaneateles  
Historical Landmarks Preservation Commission  
Work Session -- August 8, 2012

Present: Patricia Blackler, Chairman, HLPC  
Ted Kinder, Member  
Dave Neibert, Member  
Mona Smalley, Member  
Beverly White, Member

Dennis Dundon, Clerk to the Historical Commission

Dennis Coleman, Syracuse, on behalf of the Applicant

Absent: Katharine Dyson, Member  
Karlene Miller, Member  
Andrew Ramsgard, Member  
Carol Young, Member

Chairman Blackler asked the members to remain for a short meeting following the departure of the attendees from the prior hearing. She indicated that Chad Rogers had written a letter of interest to the Mayor on July 29, 2012. Chairman Blackler read the letter for the Commission members present. The Commission members feel that Mr. Rogers' profession as an architect and his lifelong residency are both desirable attributes.

Chairman Blackler suggested that any members supportive of Mr. Rogers or any other candidate should make their support known to the Mayor, so he has that information at hand if a vacancy comes up in the future. She indicated that she will also suggest to Member Ramsgard that he express his interest in the chairmanship of the Commission. Members should also make known their preferences for Chairman, noting that it is her intention to resign from the Commission at the end of 2012. She reiterated that the Commission members can only recommend; it is the Trustees who make the appointments.

Chairman Blackler went on to discuss the survey of District properties and expressed her opinion that completion of the NYS Division of Historic Preservation form titled Historic Resource Inventory Form is a desirable addition to the photographs that will be studied. It should be part of the Commission's file on each property. She will review this process with Member Ramsgard. The Commission members present agreed with her idea to include these data. This process was employed by the Cornell University architecture students when they performed their reviews of West Genesee Street, West Lake Street, Academy Street and Leitch Avenue.

Chairman Blackler acknowledged that it is unlikely that the current Village Historic District will be expanded by adding entire contiguous areas. She noted that Member Ramsgard had

previously suggested that the Village develop a method to add individual properties of historic significance that are not located within the boundaries of the current Historic District. Some examples are the Lutheran Church (formerly a Quaker church), the Baptist Church, Miller's house, Errico's house, the former Barrow house, the Athenaeum (it is on the national Historic Register), the white house across from Lakeview Cemetery (a stop on the Underground Railway), the cemetery itself, etc. Typically property owners are honored to have such designations.

The Village Historic District is on the National Register, but the individual properties are not listed.

If a mechanism could be developed to declare more individual homes to have historic importance, the Commission could exercise control over these properties as well. Owners' permission would be required. It would probably require changes to Section 225-25 of the Village Code and would require action by the Trustees to do so. Chairman Blackler asks that the Members give consideration to the desirability of such a model.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Dundon, Clerk to HLPC