

TOWN OF POUGHKEEPSIE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
April 3, 2018

In attendance: Town Historian: John Pinna

Commissioners: David Dengel, Daniel Fannon, Yvonne Laube, and Coleen McCarthy

Visitor: Ann Shershin, Samuel Fontanez Jr., Anna McClear, and Kim Woodward

Meeting was called to order at 7:11 p.m. by John Pinna.

Minutes: Minutes from March 6, 2018 were read and corrections made. Dan Fannon made a motion to accepted the minutes as corrected, Yvonne Laube seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Old Business

Juliet Project: Kim Woodward, a Marist intern, is working on creating the presentation of the history of the Juliet Theatre. John Pinna and Kim Woodward went to the Juliet Book Store to see the video screen there. John Pinna will contact Vassar's media department to learn the requirements for a video presentation and which program to use. Kim Woodward is working on adding captions to the film clips.

Arthur S. May School: The meeting between Julian Adams of SHPO and the developer Jacob Reckess about obtaining tax credits for the Arthur S. May School redevelopment into apartments has taken place. Also present was John Pinna, Dan Fannon, Ann Shershin, Jay Baisley, and Gerardo Alvarez from Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney's Newburgh office. We learned that the State SHPO makes the recommendation to the Federal Historic Preservation as to structures to receive federal historic designation and historic tax credits but the Federal Historic Preservation gets the final determination, guided by a set of restrictive standards from the 1970's. Julian Adams stated that these standards require that not only the school building be saved but also the setting. Julian Adams said he could not forward the application for historic tax credits with current plan and would need to have the parking in front of the school removed and replaced by lawn. Even with this change, it is unlikely the school would receive historic tax credits and that more chances would be required to meet the standards. The members present at the meeting explained how town zoning and the NYS DOT required having retail buildings in front of the school. This had no effect on the SHPO decision and the current plan would not eligible for historic tax credits. The commission discussed this topic and suggested adding a community element may help. They also tried to come up with a ideas on how to keep the lawn.

Hudson Heritage Site: On March 28, there was a planning board workshop on the plan for the Hudson Heritage Site. Martin Burger, a new partner with the developers, made a presentation about the retail they want to bring to the site and the current plan. Martin Burger claims he knows how retail works together. He surveyed Marist College and Healthquest, asking what development they would like to see across the street from the Marist campus. Some of the requests that came forward were for a grocery store, urgent health care clinic, a large hotel with a convention center, housing for professors and employees, and a learning center. The amount of retail and number of housing units has been reduced from the previous plan. Martin Burger also mentioned only using the front façade of the administration building and not the entire building. This was not in SEQRA and is a cause for concern. They will be beginning Phase 1 before Phase 2.

Historic Portrait: Marist College History Club is planning an end of the year fundraiser.

New Hamburg: The restaurant in New Hamburg is up for sale again. The Abraham Brown house has sold. There was a meeting in New Hamburg about the mono pole placement in the train station. The residents preferred the 135-foot pole on the south end of the parking lot. The MTA wants the mono pole as another source of income and will have them link up along the Hudson River. The mono poles are supported by the local police and fire department. There were other locations suggested including the New Hamburg fire station which would be at the top of the hill and easily accessible. It was suggested that the governor should be contacted about this.

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Ann Shershin.

Minutes were read and approved on May 1, 2018.