

TOWN OF POUGHKEEPSIE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
November 6, 2018

In attendance: Town Historian: John Pinna

Commissioners: Annon Adam, Daniel Fannon, and Yvonne Laube

Visitors: Ann Shershin, Stephanie Lewison, Joe Kenton (Saber Development Manager), and Mark Schulman (architect).

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 by Town Historian John Pinna.

Minutes: Minutes from October 2, 2018 were read and corrections made. Yvonne Laube made a motion to accept the minutes as read, Daniel Fannon seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Hudson River State Hospital: The commission stressed to our visitors that in order for the Hudson Heritage site to be successful it needs to be a destination site that attracts people to it. To do this, the development needs to be plugged into the history of the area. It needs to have sense of place and history. It needs to be unique. Preserving the Administration Building and the great lawn would create this sense of history. Joe Kenton stated that the current design for shopping centers is to attract people in to be entertained and then they will stay around to shop. Yvonne Laube shared brochures from the Traverse City Kirkbride development which contains mixed-use affordable and senior housing, retail in the basement, weddings in the chapel, restaurants, and tours. They used historic tax credits to fund the development which is ongoing. It was suggested to our visitors that an artisanal village concept could be applied to the buildings behind the Administration Building (which was a functioning town and farm during the years when it was psychiatric hospital) to create a tourist and shopping attraction. Yvonne Laube offered her presentation and to help point out key elements from building that are going to be demolished to save and reused. It was pointed out that this was Franklin Roosevelt's father, James Roosevelt's, property and there could be a gazebo to memorialize the Roosevelt family.

Joe Kenton informed us that the hotel study is almost ready to be released and is still being reviewed. The question is how many hotel rooms could be fitted into the Administration Building. Joe Kenton said the goal of development is to create a truly walkable community. There is a question as to how to include the North Tower in the plan. They are working on increasing security and have asked the police department to be more aggressive. New signs have been put up and some arrests have been made. The police department has been asked to add lights and cameras. Notices have been sent to the schools and colleges that trespassers will be arrested and prosecuted.

Mark Schulman, the architect, stated that he has worked on many historic projects. He wants to develop ideas how the building could be reused and a design criterion for the Hudson Valley. He stated that he wants to work with us. He wants to create a vision for the site and develop a street scape that ties everything together. Stephanie Lewison points out the need to preserve the trees.

The commission encouraged that tours of the site for the public needs to be set up now.

Juliet Theater Project: The film is still playing. Necessary changes have been made and are going to be updated into the film.

Turner Landmark House: The date for the landmark designation ceremony with plaque needs to be set.

Fort House: The front porch on the Fort House continues to deteriorate and shingles had begun to drop off the porch roof. It was decided that the Town Historian and Ann Shershin would contact the building department and talk to them about the status of building permit application to make repairs to the Fort House and try to move the process forward.

Violet Avenue School: The school board has received the historic designation plaque. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Arthur S. May School: The development plan for the site is going before the planning board again. We are waiting on the report with recommendations from SHPO for the site.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Ann Shershin.

Minutes were read, corrected, and approved on December 5, 2018.