

OHPC

Public Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2021

Virtual Go to Meeting

- **Call to order** at 7:02 PM

Attendance: Present: Commissioners Bigsby, Overhiser, Kennedy, Morris, Deis. Mayor Mike Baratta signed on as original “host” and turned hosting over to Chair Bigsby before meeting started.

- **Public Attendance:** Pastor Bruce Gillette, applicant, First Presbyterian Union Church, Greg Morehart, Bob Berg.
- **Public Comments:** none
- **Welcome to new Commissioners Morris and Deis**
- **COA Review for application # 202134-1, Frist Presbyterian Union Church, 90 North Avenue, Pastor Bruce Gillette applicant for custom designed wrought iron gate to the Memorial Garden.**

After through discussion of project with Pastor Gillette, Committee member Bob Berg and designer/welder Greg Morehart, **Commissioner Overhiser motioned to approve the following Findings of Facts** for application # 202134-1 based upon interviews, documents, drawings and photographs provided by the applicant. The proposed work is for the addition and installation of a custom designed wrought iron entry gate to a “Memorial Garden” adjacent to the West Elevation of the historic church, between the Sanctuary and Westminster House Fellowship Hall. The W-E Memorial Garden is entered from a concrete sidewalk that runs in a curved manner parallel from the base of the “front steps “of the Sanctuary’s Main Entrance on the West Elevation. The Church is reached by a steep staircase on the west elevation, bringing the Church to a higher elevation overlooking North Avenue. The Memorial Garden entry gate could be seen from the street-view if a pedestrian “looks up”. The intention of this Memorial Garden is for it to be a private, quiet place of prayer and contemplation for visitors. It will be insulated from the traffic noise of North Avenue by landscaping by Tioga Gardens. Currently there is a decorative divided brick wall with “Open Cross” bond at the most western edge of the memorial garden where the concrete sidewalk meets another curved brick paved sidewalk that progresses through the middle of the border gardens and ends in front of a door to the church. These two brick walls have an entry/exit space between them. The proposed custom wrought iron gate will join these two walls. The wrought iron gate will measure approximately 44 ¾ inches wide by 69 inches tall. There will be nine bars and ten spaces to fill the center of the gate. The gate will have a curved wrought iron top. Running through the bars will be a custom designed vine and leaves pattern with a dove perched in the curved space at the top of the gate near the tip of the vine. A slide bolt lock will fix the entry and exit. The designers of the custom gate are Christine Crossgrove and Greg Morehart. The iron work will be manufactured by Greg Morehart.

*Pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) it has been determined by the OHPC that this proposal constitutes a **TYPE II action** as defined under 6 CRR-NY 67.5(c).*

Any additional work or changes not described above will require further review by the OHPC. All work will be conducted according to applicable Village Code.

References:

OHPC Design Guidelines 2019: p. 11 Porches/Entryways/Decks, p. 13 Ornamentation, p. 18 Site Features.

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties 2017: p. 80 Masonry, p. 93 Metals, p. 110 Entrances and Porches, p. 137 Building Site.

- Commissioner Morris seconded the motion to approve the FOFs. All voted to approve the motion. Motion passed.
- Chair Bigsby motioned to approve issuing a COA for application 202134-1 based upon the previously approved FOFs. Commissioner Deis seconded the motion. All voted to approve the COA. Motion passed.
- **Minutes February 4, 2021**
Overhiser made a motion to approve Minutes as submitted. Kennedy seconded the motion. Bigsby, Overhiser, and Kennedy voted to approve Minutes. Morris and Deis abstained since they had not been appointed Commissioners at that time. Motion passed by majority. Minutes approved.
- **Minutes February 11, 2021, Special Meeting.**
Noting correction of past Commissioner Knickerbocker's name in attendance line, Commissioner Kennedy motioned to approve minutes as presented. Chair Bigsby seconded the motion. Bigsby, Kennedy, and Overhiser voted to approve minutes. Morris and Deis abstained since they had not been appointed Commissioners at that time. Motion passed by majority. Minutes approved.
- **Pillars of Preservation Awards:** Moved to May 2021 as National Preservation Month
Interview assignments: Overhiser/ David Allen; Morris and Bigsby/John Shafer; Kennedy and Bigsby/ John Spencer; Morris/ Pat Hansen. Overhiser will direct this project and collect interviews and pictures for media. Bigsby will provide Certificates for presentation during interviews. Plaque to be installed in meeting room with names that will be added each year.
- **Informal Discussion of ongoing approved projects and/or potential upcoming applications:**
American Legion on Front Street is considering submitting COA application for electronic sign like the Boys and Girls club. Chair and Village CEO will try to set up meeting ASAP with legion committee and sign contractor, John Pidcoe. OHPC guidelines and Village Code and Zoning regulations will be discussed and explained.

Commissioner Deis mentioned planned work for back porch railing and replacing aluminum awning over kitchen door with appropriate roof. Only street view work needs COA application.

- **Chair Report:**

Bigby reminded Commissioners that the Preservation League has provided us with **Links to Preservation League Webinars** of interest to historic Property owners. Also, the Preservation League has developed a **CE webinar for licensed real estate agents** regarding historic properties and districts. Both of these links will be posted to the OHPC section of the Village Website. Commissioners need 4 hours of CE each year. March 10, 2021 webinar on Historic Tax Credits upcoming.

OHPC will respond to survey regarding the creation of a Finger Lakes Region Heritage Site. Tioga County is being considered as part of this. The historic Village of Owego and out Historic District should be Southern Gateway to this heritage region. Individuals can also complete survey. This designation would support the development of a plan for "Heritage Tourism".

Chair is working on annual CLG report to SHPO due April 2, 2021. This is required to maintain CLG status.

Peter Gordon has written a companion book for the Evergreen Cemetery Tour. His next project is a Companion book to the walking tour of the historic district.

Chair will check with Clerk on new term appointments Morris and Deis.

- Adjourned at 8:11 PM

Respectfully submitted by Nadine Bigsby with assistance from James Overhiser

Next OHPC Meeting April 1 ,2021 at 7 PM, Virtual.