

OHPC

Public Meeting Minutes

November 5, 2020

Virtual Go to Meeting

- **Call to order** at 7:07 PM

Attendance: Commissioners Bigsby, Overhiser, Kennedy, Knickerbocker, Gates- full quorum present. Mayor Mike Baratta as official virtual “host”

- **Public Attendance** : none
- **Public Comments** -none
- **Commissioner Discussion:** Before formal review of applications Commissioner Overhiser expressed concern about the OHPC approval process being a “rubber stamp” for projects that need SHPO approval for grant approvals and historic tax credit exemptions. A discussion ensued about the coordination of the review process at the state and local levels, the role of the County agencies, coordination with the Village Code Enforcement Officer and the DPW, determination of environmental SEQR category for each application, and general oversight of ongoing approved applications for COAs. The public has the right to attend and participate in the OHPC public review process after SHPO approval and has access to copies of approved COAs through posted minutes. The Commission is always looking for ways to streamline the approval process without sacrificing legal responsibilities.
- **Applications for COA to Review:**
 - # **2020115-1, 384 Front Street, Anne and Peter Schaeffer**, exterior foundation/masonry repair, roof, basement windows, side porch repair, routine maintenance/repair in kind (all work submitted to SHPO for historic tax credit review).

Findings of Fact:

Pursuant to Village of Owego Code Chapter 126: “Preservation” adopted 2/19/2019

Commissioner Overhiser made a motion to approve the following Findings of Facts for application # 2020115-1

OHPC approved work for application # 2020115-1 from Finding of Facts: Original application for this work is application # 20191024-1. Work entered into the historic record on 10/24/19 was identified as routine maintenance/repair -in-kind: exterior power washing, removal of old paint and repainting of front porch (N elevation) and side porch (W elevation) with color matching current colors; scrape and repaint architectural spheres on brick entry columns near Front Street; repair assorted roof leaks; replace foundation on carriage house; repair masonry/paint foundation on house foundation; filling in

basement windows that were boarded up and repair broken panes; make frames to match; replace a window pane in the carriage house. An addendum to this application for the installation of architectural period roof shingles over the current shingle layer of the entire roof was issued on 2/6/2020. SHPO approved the Schaeffer's application #20PR00814 for historic tax credit on February 24, 2020 for interior work and for the exterior work described above. SHPO also issued an Amendment #1 for application #20PR00814 on November 2, 2020 for the property owner's amendment sheet dated 11/01/2020.

References: The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines (2017) for rehabilitation p.80 Masonry, p.98 Roofs, p.102 Windows, p.110 Entrances and Porches,

OHPC Design Guidelines 2019 p. 6 Masonry, p. 8 Windows and Doors, p.11 Porches/Entryways/Decks, p.13 Ornamentation.

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.

Commissioner Gates seconded the motion to approve FOFs as described above. All voted to approve the FOFs. Motion Passed.

Chair Bigsby made a motion to issue a COA based upon the approved FOFs. Commissioner Kennedy seconded the motion. All voted to approve issuance of COA. Motion passed.

2020115-2, 32 Lake Street, Joseph Skovira, Commercial Storefront Signs for "Local Utopia". Liz Skovira, tenant. "Anything Artistic"- Contractor.

Findings of Fact:

Pursuant to Village of Owego Code Chapter 126: "Preservation" adopted 2/19/2019

Chair Bigsby made a motion to approve the following Findings of Facts for application # 2020115-2

The planned work is for first floor storefront (W elevation) signage on this c 1870 brick building. Window graphics (22" x 36") will be affixed to the two front door glass windows. Another similar graphic sign will be affixed to the center storefront window (22" x 21") The signs will read "Local Utopia" and will present in a "Victorian" font and surround design as pictured in the contractor's specs provided with the application. The other sign is a 30"x30" 12-gauge steel laser cut and painted sign to be hung from existing bracket used by previous merchant tenant. This sign is different from the "historic" window and door graphics. It will read "local Utopia" using cursive lowercase font for "local" and large "block" all caps font for "UTOPIA". No exterior lighting has been approved. This sign will meet all village code for hanging signs on storefront commercial district public sidewalks.

References:

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines (2017) for rehabilitation p. 113 Storefronts

OHPC Design Guidelines 2019 p. 14 Storefronts, p. 15 Signs/Awnings/Murals/Banners

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.

Commissioner Kennedy seconded the motion to approve the FOFs. All voted in favor of accepting the FOFs as presented above. Motion passed.

Chair Bigsby made a motion to issue a COA based upon the approved FOFs as described above. Commissioner Kennedy seconded the motion. All voted to approve the issuance of the COA. Motion Passed.

Approval of Minutes:

8/6/20, motion to approve by Overhiser, seconded by Knickerbocker. All voted to approve except Gates who abstained due to absence.

9/3/20, motion to approve by Knickerbocker, seconded by Kennedy. All voted to approve except Gates who abstained due to absence.

9/6/20 (special meeting), motion to approve by Gates, seconded by Overhiser. Overhiser, Knickerbocker, and Gates voted to approve. Kennedy abstained (absence) and Bigsby abstained (conflict of interest because it was Bigsby's COA application review). Minutes approved by quorum of three.

10/1/20, motion to approve by Knickerbocker, seconded by Kennedy. All voted to approve except Gates who abstained (absence).

- **Informal Discussion of any prospective applications for future review and updates on past or ongoing projects.**

CEO, Scott Phelps requires a variance for second commercial sign on 248 Front Street. OHPC approved design and previously issued COA on 9/15/20. Commissioner Kennedy reported upcoming work at 72 North Avenue for historic storefront. Not DRI project. Main Street Methodist Church : two concrete pads installed in front of Samaritan House on N side of sidewalk. Discussion of OHPC advocating for more "historic design" of large Church signs in Historic district, requiring OHPC approval.

Pillars of Preservation: First recipients will be David Allen, Pat Hansen, John Shafer and John Spencer. All were important in the early creation of the Historic District. Overhiser will create a certificate for presentation. Bigsby will do PR. Hopefully to award before year's end.

Welcome Packet: Packet will include copies of "Get Your House Right" by Marianne Cusato and Ben Pentreath. (Books to be donated by Matt Laba, former OHPC Commissioner), welcome letter, copy of historic inventory of property, Graphic Diagram that explains COA application procedure, Copy of OHPC Guidelines, Copy of COA application. Chair is pushing for this to be completed by year's end.

NYS 2020 Statewide Preservation Conference, 12/1 – 12/3, Virtual, Bigsby encourages all Commissioners to apply for CLG scholarships and to attend. Bigsby was awarded a scholarship and will attend. Four hours of this three day conference will count towards Commissioners CE for 2021.

- **Commissioner Reports** – none
- **Chair Report:** Bigsby will send a sympathy card from OHPC to family of DPW staff member, Lynn Mead. Village BOT approved historic district sign restoration. Overhiser will lead on this project. Village Website still needs updating: post historic building inventories. We need to find out if Owego is part of "Main Street America" and contact Brittany Woodburn about this. Chair is looking into "Heritage Tourism" CLG Grant.
- **Public Comments** – None
- **Adjourned** at 8:32 PM

Respectfully submitted by Nadine Bigsby with support from Jim Overhiser

Next OHPC Meeting on December 3, 2020 at 7 PM. Virtual.