

# OHPC

## Public Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2020

(rescheduled from December 3, 2020)

Virtual Go to Meeting

- **Call to order** at 7:01 PM

**Attendance:** Present: Commissioners Bigsby, Overhiser, Kennedy. Absent: Knickerbocker, Gates. Legal quorum present. Mayor Mike Baratta signed on as original “host” and turned hosting over to Chair Bigsby before meeting started.

- **Public Attendance** : Julie Nucci
- **Public Comments** – Property owner, Julie Nucci addressed the OHPC on her efforts to help the Village qualify for reduction in flood insurance premiums. There is a community rating system that has been developed to determine flood insurance premiums and Julie is interested in helping the Village take flood abatement steps that would create a better rating score , thus lowering flood insurance premiums. She has been appointed by the Mayor to be the Village’s Flood Resilience Coordinator and will spearhead efforts to bring this issue to the forefront of the Village’s concerns. She will be setting up a ZOOM meeting, soon, with a consultant to learn about flood mitigation strategies for historic properties. Julie requested the support of OHPC in this endeavor and would recommend having a Commissioner on any future committee which forms. The OHPC expressed interest in supporting Nucci’s work on behalf of the Village.
- **Approval of Minutes from November 5, 2020**  
Kennedy moved to approve as written, Overhiser seconded. All approved. Motion passed.
- **Informal Discussion of ongoing approved projects and/or potential upcoming applications:**  
Update on the pending sale of 442 Front Street. Lourdes Hospital has shown interest in developing the subdivided property. The house has been separated for sale from the rest of the lot and is currently pending. Development currently on hold due to pandemic and related economic challenges.  
Bigsby has communicated with Town of Owego Historian, Peter Gordon, about the boundaries of the historic district. Bigsby suggests that Village apply for a Preservation League grant to have a new Cornell Survey done. SHPO recommends that surveys be redone every 20 years or so and ours was last done in 1997-1998 when the District Boundary was increased.

Historic District Boundary Markers: Bigsby will follow up with the DPW removal and delivery of the three signs, installed in 1998, that mark the boundaries of the district on Front and Main Streets.

- **Pillars of Preservation Awards 2020**

For approval, Bigsby presented draft of letter to recipients. Letter approved. Overhiser suggested that a plaque be purchased and engraved with the honorees' names each year in a cumulative column. The plaque should be placed in or near the Village's Board meeting room. Bigsby will follow up on this idea. OHPC will write a Press Release about the award and the recipients. We will ask Board Trustee and OHPC Liaison, Laura Eberly, to interview her father, John Spencer; Phoebe Morris and Commissioner Kennedy will write up a bio about the late John Shafer; Commissioner Knickerbocker will interview Pat Hansen; Commissioner Bigsby will interview David Allen. Letters and interviews will be done ASAP, before the year's end. Overhiser has designed a certificate which will be framed and presented to each honoree. Photos need to be provided at the time of the interviews. Reception to be held post COVID.

- **New Property Owner Packet:** Bigsby has contacted Janna Rudler from the Preservation League to see if she had any promotional canvas carry-all bags to use for delivery. Bigsby has also purchased some cotton carryall bags and some blank iron-on transfers to use if the Preservation League bags are not available for use. The packet will consist of a copy of the book "Get Your Historic House Right" donated by previous OHPC Commissioner Matt Laba, a cover letter to property owners from the OHPC, copy of application procedure graphic designed by Commissioner Overhiser, a copy of the COA application, a copy of the OHPC Guidelines, a copy of the historic Cornell Survey for the specific property. A thank you letter will be written to Matt Laba. Overhiser offered to iron on the OHPC logo to bags, if needed.

- **Chair Report:**

Bigsby reported 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.

Bigsby attended the annual **NYS Preservation Conference**, held virtually on December 1-3, 2020. The focus of the seminars varied but some of the highlights were: minority and underserved community issues with preservation and gentrification in their communities, combining artistic and historic projects in preservation, heritage tourism ( Village should apply for a CLG grant for this), disaster planning, especially focusing on living with water, grants that are available for not-for-profits in historic areas ( the Village has a need for an independent 501c3 in the district to qualify for grants that the Village municipality cannot

apply for). The digital copies of these seminars and keynote addresses will be sent to Bigsby, who will share them so the other Commissioners can view them. Also, these will qualify for annual 4 hours of CE required by Commissioners.

**Wikipedia** entry for Historic District needs correcting and updating. Will work with Stephen Beukema, Village Historian, on this.

**Village Website** still needs updating. Bigsby has been in contact with Abbey Hendrickson from Team Tioga and Town of Owego Historian , Peter Gordon, in creating a link on the Village Website to Cornell Survey information.

**Adjournment:** 7:56 PM

Respectfully submitted by Nadine Bigsby with assistance from James Overhiser

Next OHPC Meeting January 7,2021 at 7 PM, Virtual.