



# Owego Historic Preservation Commission

Public Meeting Minutes  
21 Elm Street Owego, NY

Thursday March 2, 2023, 7:00 PM

OHPC Meetings Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.  
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- Call to Order/Attendance 7:07pm  
(Chair) Jim Overhiser, Phoebe Morris, Nadine Bigsby , Tim Dies, Brian Kennedy, (ex-officio) Ira Rosenheck  
Attending Public: Natalie White & Alec Fleischer
- Public Comments  
Fleisher brought the information needed for an addendum to COA# 2923022-2 (approved at 02/02/2023 meeting)
  - Replace existing wood single-hung windows with Anderson 100 series, Fibrex wood composite single-hung windows. No change in window size for replacements.”  
Addendum to COA 1st: Morris 2nd: Kennedy Approved unanimously
- Approve Minutes from February 2, 2023  
1st: Bigsby 2nd: Overhiser Approved unanimously
- Review of COA Applications:
  - #20230302-1 217 Main St., Village of Owego Owner Matthew Laba application for sign posting for new business tenant (Red Bird Fiber Arts, LLC - proprietor, Natalie White)property owner Matt Laba, re: sign on Main St side of building. New sign for yarn shop owned by Natalie White; “Red Bird Fiber Arts” at 217 Main St., 1W. The Plywood sign will be painted white with the shop name and logo and hang above the front steps. Sign in 72”w X 13.5h” and be the same shape as the sign for the other businesses in the building. The front steps are 89” wide and the sign will be centered above the stairs, with approximately 95” of clearance below the sign. The sign will not be illuminated.
  - Finding of Facts:  
1st Deis 2nd Bigsby - unanimously approved
  - COA  
1st Bigsby 2nd Overhiser - unanimously approved

- Informal discussion of any past approved COA project progress and potential upcoming COA reviews

Biggsby spoke about meeting with the DRI committee about signage around downtown. Said the committee is moving forward and may be replacing signage downtown this spring. Overhiser spoke about various businesses moving in & out of downtown and we may have some new sign requests coming.
- New Business
  - District inventory update discussion; Cornell contact Michael Tomlan  
Overhiser said he is working on updating the maps and local law and wants to do a re-inventory. He spoke with Michael Tomlan from Cornell about getting it done by students during the summer session. Overhiser said he is currently writing a grant to cover that expense. There have been several changes in the district since the last inventory was done in 1998.
  - Tioga Trails discussion; Biggsby said the County has re-applied for a large grant to rehabilitate the Tioga Trails building. Overhiser said they are not being fined for code violations and it may be taken over by the County for taxes.
  - Sign guidelines update (pg 15-16)  
Overhiser spoke about updating the guidelines for Signs, Awnings, Murals and Banners. Updates to the wording are needed to include new materials and lighting. There is an artist working on several Murals around town and we need to make sure our wording is appropriate.
  - Language of the law on Village property  
Overhiser said he has been looking at local laws and wants the committee to be aware of Chapter 180 of Village Law that provides an incentive to make repairs to houses in the Historic district as it provides an exemption to Village taxes (100% for the first 5 years)
- Old Business
  - Planning update on *Meet the Realtors* event  
Deis said they are closing in on a date and time for the event.
  - Update on *Pillars of Preservation* work interviews  
Overhiser said he has interviewed one of them and will be speaking with Emma soon. Biggsby said she will be contacting Bruce Nelson this week.
  - Update on website instructional video (PM)
- Commissioner reports

Biggsby said she and Overhiser will be speaking with Rotary this month and will be using the PPT at that meeting.

- Chair report
  - NYStatewide Preservation Conference, April 13-15, 2023, Auburn, NY  
Overhiser encourages us to attend
  - CLG report  
Overhiser said we need to have a flood mitigation plan on file with the County. They have hired the same engineering firm that wrote the Climate Smart Community report to write it. Overhiser said he is on the steering committee.
  
- Public Comments  
None
  
- Adjourn  
8:30pm

**Next OHPC meeting on Thursday April 6, 2023 at 7 PM**

*Respectfully submitted by Phoebe Morris*