

OHPC

Public Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2021 (Rescheduled from August 5, 2021)
20 Elm Street, Owego, NY 13827

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

Attendance: Present: Commissioners Bigsby, Overhiser, Morris, Deis, and Kennedy. All present.

- **Public Attendance:** Emma Sedore, Tioga County Historian
- **Public Comments:** Emma Sedore: Comments on the removal of the “front Steps” of the former school building, now the County Office Building at 56 Main Street.

Mrs. Sedore iterated the history of 56 Main Street and commented on the significance of the naming the building after Ronald E. Dougherty and the 1000’s of people who graduated from that school. There was a school building there since 1883 the street name changed from Chapel St. to Academy (because of the school). In 1923 they demolished original building and built the current structure. Current building used to have a big wrap-around porch and that was changed to front steps when the county purchased it. Bigsby read from Chapter 126 Village Code Preservation Ordinance that charges the OHPC to protect historic architecture “within the village”. Morris commented that the building is part of the historic street scape. Bigsby commented that people look to OHPC to protect historic buildings in the village and suggested taking steps to on put the building on the Nat Hist Registry. We would need to make a strong argument to Tioga County Legislature to initiate this application. Property owner must submit the application. Tioga County Historian and Commissioner Bigsby agreed to work on this together. (All) agreed to write a letter describing our stance. (NB) put forward a letter she penned to Martha Sauerbrey, Legislature Chair for OHPC to review. Commissioner Morris agreed to revise the letter to strengthen the end and send it to Commissioners for review and then ultimately to the County Legislature.

- **COA Application Review:**
202185-1, 26 Lake Street, Barber Shop Sign, James E. Balshuweit property owner, Matt Romano, Andy and Son Barbershop tenant. Mild discussion of application. NB – read FOF Motion to approve:

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

OHPC APPROVED WORK for application # 202185-1 from FOF based upon submitted drawing and design information submitted by the property owner and tenant.

Proposal: to install a new sign onto the storefront on the West Elevation of the commercial building. It will be attached to “sign band” (the area over the storefront window) that is currently empty and designed to display a sign.

Details: The sign will be single faced aluminum panels with computer cut vinyl mounted to a 1-inch square aluminum tube frame awning. The sign will measure 14 feet 3 ¼ inches in length and 42 ¼ inches wide. The sign will be traditional barbershop colors of red, white, and blue. The background of the sign is a red, white, and blue chevron pattern. On top of the background, in white lettering upon a solid blue background, are the words “ ANDY & SON Barber Shop”. The sign has a blue border on top of a white border.

References: **OHPC Design Guidelines 2019, p. 14 Storefronts, p. 15-17 Signs/Awnings/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. Issuance of a COA or Village Building Permit does not guarantee SHPO approval for NYS or Federal Tax Credits.

All work will be conducted according to applicable Village Code.

PM 2nd: BK Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 APPROVED
NB made Motion to issue COA: 2nd: BK Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 APPROVED

202185-2, 184 Front Street, replace existing rear Decks plus roof work, Joseph Ferri, property owner. Plans and application were discussed. Owner was not present. Concern was given RE: Architectural and engineering drawing and the inaccuracies, should pass concerns along to the new code officers, DETERMINATION - - deferral for more info and clarification.

PM made Motion to DEFER , 2nd BK Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 APPROVED

- **Approve Minutes from July 1, 2021**

Motion to approve: PM, 2nd TD Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 BK abstain due to absence,
Motion APPROVED.

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

- 163-165 Main St. Briggs buildings and clear glass installed as approved by OHPC
- Bigsby shared letter she wrote to property owner Briggs which conformed details of COA which was issued for this property that supported his concern that the clear glass should be installed on the storefront doors, not glass that contractor installed that was opaque. Property owner needs documentation to support his discussion with Contractor. Property owner wants to follow COA as issued.
- District resident complained about neighbor's car parked on front lawn on Front Street Property. Asked if there was a law against this. Bigsby searched Village Code for parking regulations but could not find any that fit this issue. Bigsby reminded Commissioners that the OHPC Design Guidelines were created so that they could be changed by Commission vote to include something like this. Commissioners were unanimous in opposing making any changes to Guidelines at this point.
- Rehab Services Residence Building – no permit yet for work. No COA application, either.
- 173 Front Street. Bigsby has had discussion with Floyd Neal Property owner about window replacement on this commercial building. She has written letters and explained appeal process.

- 30 Church Street: J Boland property owner. Chair Bigsby discussed porch construction project with Village CEO, Terry Coleman and DPW Chief Jeff Soules. Coleman is not requiring a building permit because he considers it “routine Maintenance/repair in kind”. This puts OHPC in the position of accepting CEO’s decision and not requiring a COA, either.

- **New Business** : NAPC Short Course Aug 24-25, Scholarships for CLGs available. NB reminded Commissioners about 3 hour in service requirement.
- **Old Business:**
Pillar awards: PM still needs to interview Pat Hansen.
Welcome packet: Bigsby would like volunteers to walk door to door for delivery. We would like to include general village information in the packet.
- **Commissioner Reports:** None
- **Chair Report:** None
- **Public Comments:** None
- **Next meeting** will be on September 9, 2021, at 7 PM 20 Elm Street. 9 Rescheduled from September 2).
- **Adjourned 8:30 PM**

Respectfully submitted by Nadine Bigsby and James Overhiser.