

Owego Historic Preservation Commission

OHPC

Hybrid Public Meeting Minutes

20 Elm Street Owego, NY

Thursday November 4, 2021, 7:00 PM

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- Call to Order/Attendance 7:03pm Nadine Bigsby(NB) , Phoebe Morris(PM), Tim Deis(TD), Jim Overhiser(JO), absent Brian Kennedy (BK)
- Attendance: Public – Megan Schnabl from Team Tioga
- Public Comments (zoom access) none
- Review of COA Applications:
 - # 2021114-1, North Avenue, Village of Owego property owner, Streetscape Improvements, NYS Main Street Grant, SHPO Approved, Megan Schnabl Team Tioga,manager.PM: Have you spoken to Jeff Soules RE old, pre-existing bike racks? Yes and no racks available. Jeff can lend advice in placement. PM: Where did the 4-sided clock go to after the last upgrade to Lake St.? Might be good to add. PM; lamp post questions on replacements on North Ave and the bridge. Answer: Replace in kind and repair broken ones.

Reading of Finding Of Facts (PM):

FOF for application # 2021114-1 from FOF based upon submitted documentation of graphics, photos, written descriptions and SHPO correspondence with owner and Team Tioga. This project has been awarded a NYS Main Street Grant and has been approved by SHPO as the streetscape enhancement will have no adverse effect on historic resources. This commercial/residential section of North Avenue is in the Owego Central Historic District and is home to many three-story Italianate commercial buildings built in the last quarter of the 19th century. The project will include installing two new historic looking streetlights along

North Avenue to match existing ones, adding 10 double hanging baskets, 5 two-way scroll arm lamp post brackets and installing six bike racks along the sidewalks. In a letter dated August 16, 2021, Sloane Bullough, Historic Sites Restoration Coordinator with SHPO stated, "We recommend that all of the streetlights in the historic district match so as to create a more cohesive appearance." The OHPC supports this SHPO recommendation and instructs the Village of Owego to work with the Village's DRI committee focusing on streetscape enhancement so that the results of both grants are cohesive in design.

References:

OHPC Design Guidelines 2019 p. 13 Ornamentation, p. 18 Site Features

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties 2017, p. 143 and p.214 , Setting(District/Neighborhood),

The Secretary of the Interior's Preservation Brief 36. Protecting Cultural Landscapes: Planning, Treatment and Management of Historic Landscapes

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.

Motion to approve FOF: PM 2nd: TD All Aye(4) - 0 Nay

COA: Motion to approve : NB 2nd: PM 4 Aye, 0 Nay

- Approve Minutes from October 7, 2021
Motion: PM 2nd:JO 3 aye – 0 nay 1 absentia (TD)
- Informal discussion of any past approved COA project progress and potential upcoming COA reviews : NB supplied the DRI progress report from Team Tioga to review.
- New Business
 - NYS preservation hosting a conference Nov 16-18 via remote access, registration free for OHPC, FEMA forming
 - NB attending Nov 9 a reception for the new Chamber of commerce president,
 - 3 bids for the Wayfaring and signage plan for the village to develop a unifying brand for the village DT district,
- Old Business
 - No response to the letter RE Tioga County building steps
 - Pillars article...get reports to JO and he will write the article
- Commissioner reports
 - NB commented on preparing for her transition out and her replacement.
 - Consider future work on updating our guidelines to include hazard mitigation
- Chair report

- Public Comments (NONE)
- Adjourn 7:51pm Motion PM and 2nd: TD All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Commissioners Bigsby and Overhiser

Next OHPC meeting on Thursday December 2, 2021, 7 PM