

Vestal Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting Monday, May 8, 2017

Attendees: M. Hadsell, N. Versaggi, P. Deeley, ML Supa

Absent: B. Weisse

Meeting called to order at 5:08pm

Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm

- **Announcements:**

The Vestal Emergency Service (VVES) is planning to construct a building just east of the present location of the Vestal Museum. Vestal is seeking funds for moving the Vestal Museum, a former depot for the DL&W railroad, from its current location to a location on the Vestal Rail Trail. Funding is being sought from the Hoyt Foundation for \$70,000. An owner of a caboose is willing to donate the caboose to the Vestal Historical Society and move the car to be associated with the depot. In addition, a section of track will be acquired to accommodate the rail car. Kathleen LaFrank has requested photos of the proposed location. Once moved, she will assist in placing the Depot on the State and National Registers.

- **Old Business:**

Historical Marker Funding Update

Investigated Preserve New York and Broome County Council of the Arts and the markers do not fall within any of the parameters of funding from these agencies. The Klee Foundation will be researched for possible funding. The Hoyt Foundation will be contacted for suggestions as to where the commission could apply for funds. Private funding may be pursued from a local developer.

Museum Steps Update

Paul visited the Vestal Museum to measure the interior steps between the Station Master's office and the Baggage room. There was a request by the historical society members to devise a plan to make the stairs more user friendly. Due to a pending National and State Register determination, the interior of the Museum cannot be changed. Various solutions were discussed among commission members. Suggestion of a platform to go over steps, preserving the original stairs, providing a wider tread and an additional handrail is being considered. Paul will revise his plan and present at next meeting.

Parkway Lustron House Update

The blue Lustron house no longer has the “For Sale” sign. Cars parked in the driveway and smoke from the chimney suggest occupancy. The State listing of Lustron houses indicates the house is not eligible for State or National Registers (due to a number of architectural changes).

Lustron House and National Register Nomination

Nina presented paperwork sent from the State Historic Preservation Office outlining the National Register process for Lustron houses and said it would be straight-forward to complete. The Clay Street (Beam) Lustron house would be appropriate for consideration. The owner needs to give permission before process begins and the Commission will check with the owner. The yellow Lustron house on the Parkway is also eligible and may be a future nomination.

Jones-Roth Farmstead State/National Register Application

Margaret has all the background information and photos to provide a CD for Kathleen LaFrank at SHPO for her consideration. If deemed eligible, the commission will search for funding to hire a qualified individual to complete the application process.

WGP Historical Markers

With additional proof, the applications for Choconut (Dewey) Mill and the Tannery have been approved. Margaret wants to check the spelling of Ezekiel Clark’s name before the finalization. Willis Cemetery had to have a more extensive background check. Margaret was able to find more information in historic supervisors’ records. With a re-write, the application is going to the WGP board for approval.

- **New Business**

New Local Designation – Harpur College

A walk about by Nina and Mary Lou was done on campus to research what buildings would be eligible. Cornerstone dates of buildings were noted on a mid 1960’s aerial campus map. The buildings with construction dates that fall within the date range of 1957 to 1965 will be reviewed as a group to determine how well they are preserved (per the recommendations of the 2011 Reconnaissance Survey) and intact buildings will be considered for local designations. Paul invited commission members to campus Physical Facilities in June to review documents on file there.

Next Meeting: Monday June 12 at 5:00 pm