

Vestal Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes from May 9, 2016

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

Absent: B. Weisse

Meeting called to order at 5:35 pm

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm

Old Business:

- Rivercrest – The two eastern-most houses (#4725, #4729) have been removed after the Certificate of Appropriateness was approved by the Commission on March 23, 2016 via letter to Erik Webb of North Star. A registered letter stated that this decision applies only to these two buildings, and not to the remaining structures in the district, including the historic Chenango Canal Extension. In addition, the letter reiterated that no filling, vehicle movement, or other disturbances can occur in the canal prism or on its towpath. Future violations of the ordinance will be forwarded to the Code enforcement office for assessment of penalties.
- 2016 William G. Pomeroy Markers – The William G. Pomeroy Foundation requested some edits to the Vestal Park Cemetery text. They asked for more detail on the significance of the cemetery, which contains the graves of two Revolutionary War soldiers and approximately 51 Civil War soldiers. Commission will conduct additional research on Rev War soldiers, William Weston and John Rush, both of whom were part of the Sullivan-Clinton Campaign that marched through this area. The Commission will also obtain additional photographs of grave markers, possibly focusing on funerary artwork on the stones. There was a minor edit requested for the text for the Vestal Parkway sign, but no edits required for the Vestal Museum sign.
- Update on Ken Wilson Dealership – the property has been transferred to the new Florida owners. As far as we know, demolition of the hyperbolic structure is still planned.
- Depot Steps/Roof – more attempts will be made to get access to the building at a mutually convenient time so that the Commission's licensed architect can evaluate the two situations and provide a drawing of the steps to the town Engineer.
- Oath of Office Reminder – members of the Commission who have not already signed their Oaths of Office, were reminded to do so.

New Business:

- Canal – The canal received recent publicity through a segment on Time Warner Cable News. The Commission will pursue additional media programs to make the community aware of the National and Local significance of this cultural feature.

- 75th Anniversary of Parkway – 2016 is the 75th Anniversary of the Parkway and a celebration will be held on July 2 and 3 that will include an opening ceremony at Four Corners Memorial Park, participation by businesses along the Parkway, events and demonstrations. A map is being created to list events for the weekend. A mockup of the historical marker will be unveiled at the ceremony.
- Museum Curator Resignation – Ramona Kacyvenski has resigned the position of Museum Curator. Interviews for the position are being conducted.
- Moving Museum Building – In 2011 the possibility of placing the Museum on the State and National register was investigated. Per Kathleen LaFrank of SHPO, the building qualifies if it was moved to a position parallel to the Rail Trail. Funding was not available at the time but the possibility may exist for the future through grants. Ramona Kacyvenski is looking for a possible grant.

Next Meeting

- Monday, July 11, 2016 at 5:30 pm.