

### III. Meeting Minutes for Yorktown Heritage Preservation Commission – August 9, 2023

**Attendees:** Nancy Milanese, Bridget Krowe, Christine Sisler, Tom McLoughlin and Lynn Briggs

#### 1a. Budget - As of 01/10/2023

Account T.0082.0001 Homes of Distinction \$537.42  
Account T.0082.0002 Landmark Preservation \$3219.40  
Account 0479.0005-\$2500.00  
Total \$6256.82

#### vs. 09/01/23 Nancy to confirm

Account T.0082.0001 Homes of Distinction - \$0  
Account T.0082.0002 Landmark Preservation - \$0  
Account 0479.0005-\$500  
Total \$500

Tom has secured a \$1000 “grant” from the Lions Club for us; waiting receipt addressed to Yorktown Heritage Preservation Commission; Nancy, which account do we deposit it in? 0479.0005?

#### 1b. \$5K Removed from Account for Town Obligation for Quonset Hut Purchase

-Initiated multiple attempts with Supervisor Slater to correct the “accounting error” and return the \$5K funds to our account; no response received;  
-Addressed with Supervisor Diana on February 1, 2023; no response

Next Step-We agreed to jointly present our case to the Town Board; timing tbd; new Comptroller in place now

#### 2. Potential Assistance from our Liaison, Luciana Haughwout

-Initiated multiple requests to meet to review our 2023 programs, plans and funding; unsuccessful  
-Next Step-Discuss how we can engage our liaison to participate in the process

#### 3. Town Board Funding Request

On December 1, 2022, requested Town Board to fund two new programs

1) \$11884 to fabricate four new bronze markers\* to replace the dilapidated MDF markers; no response received

2) \$5550 to create Digital Audio Tour of Yorktown's 15 Revolutionary War sites, TravelStorysGPS a possible vendor

Also requested Town position re:

1) as part of Town government, can the YHPC charge admission fees to the public to our programs?

-No response despite follow up

2) clarify the Town's venue use fee policy (use parks, town facilities: free or fee?) for municipal entities like the YHPC (we are volunteers, not nonprofit nor for profit) to provide programs for the public good?

-No response received

#### **4. Westchester County Board of Legislator Funding Request**

On November 30, submitted funding request for \$17443 to Westchester County Board of Legislators, through our legislator, Vedat Gashi, for funding support for the Digital Audio Tour and four replacement bronze markers

-Received BOL approval for total of \$17443

#### **Update**

-learned that Monumedic, our marker fabricator, went out of business

-obtained new estimate for markers from Franklin Foundry, \$9332 vs. Monumedic Estimate, \$11884; difference (Franklin is who Monumedic was working with)

-difference in estimates, Franklin -\$2552 but shipping has to be added

-need to process under 501C3 (Rae of Light Foundation, Inc.), provide 501c3 IRS determination letter, scope of services, budget breakdown, W-9, EFT, liability insurance certificate naming County of Westchester as certificate holder and additionally insured; takes about 6 weeks

#### **\*Bronze Markers**

-completed for YCCC, First Presbyterian Church, Yorktown Railroad Station, Shipman House

-stored at Parks and Recreation Building

-Jim Martorano has okayed our continued storage of the markers

-planning design and execute install / recognition events when conditions permit

-next group: Davenport House, Congregational Church, Lane's Tavern, Community Church

-Bridget developed proposed sign copy for Davenport House (needs to be vetted and sources identified;

-Develop marker copy:

..Tom-Community Church

..Bridget/Nancy-Congregational Church

..Chris-Lane's Tavern

-Sent vendor requirements on August 31 (and prior landmark research for Community Church-Tom and Lane's Tavern-Chris) for body copy and for reference prior four final fabricated markers' copy

-planning install event underway with First Presbyterian Church in late fall (Kathryn Frase has agreed to work with us)

## **6. Other Support Requested of Supervisor Diana-February 1, 2023**

- storage space for our historic records-no response
- requested potential storage space in the Engineering Department three months ago (no response)

## **7. Historic Building Designations**

**a. 1952 Commerce Street** (Unique Building: designated as such in the Planned District Design Overlay Zone law: "Existing buildings that should be retained for cultural, architectural and historical references to the Town's history."

-The Town Board has approved the Garden Hotel development while simultaneously agreeing to demolish the building designated as Unique in the law it created, a conflict in actions.

Next Step – submit memo to Town Board requesting the Unique buildings be removed from the law

### **b. Strang Tavern Components (outbuilding at 800 Granite Springs Road)**

- Worked with the home owner, draftsman and disassembly contractor to save, identify and prepare the posts and beams from the original Strang Tavern
- Historically significant: Major Andre stop through Yorktown with plans to West Point in his boot
- took numerous videos: interviewed home owner, post and beam expert, volunteer architect
- funding supplied by Board of Legislators, Vedat Gashi legislator
- stored in secure location pending vision, plan development and funding support to repurpose as Cultural Heritage Center for 2026, 250<sup>th</sup> US birthday of American independence

### **c. Homes of Distinction**

- No activity
- Rob and Ashley Lenseth, 1145 Baldwin Road, have asked to renew their request for designation of their home for Home of Historic Distinction; retrieving and review initial application; dates back to 1835, Tompkins family and Elias Qureau and wife who bequeathed the land for my school house
- Located the Lenseth file and will reach out to him; he wants to post the HHD sign below his Clover Hill sign and have the text be visible on each side.

### **d. Proposed Landmarks**

#### **On Hold**

- Isaac Underhill House: application draft completed; conversation with homeowner, reviewing code, concerned about limitations on future exterior construction, acknowledged receipt of codes, reviewing (options: landmark, HHD or national register listing)

#### **On Hold**

- Hilltop Hanover Farm-County funded consultants to build master plan; attended stakeholder

visioning workshop; shared aspects of research completed; meets three out of five landmarking criteria: 1, 2, 5; Lynn amending the content to better fit criteria

### **Underhill Farm Development**

-On July 17, 2023, the Planning Board approved the Underhill Farm site plan and resolution unanimously; 79% (10.9/13.8 acres) mostly undeveloped space will be disturbed; 6 acres of open space will be eliminated; over 494 of 714 trees (69%) cut down, destroying large quantities of ground cover and vegetation, 148 residential units will be fabricated; 15,600 sf of commercial /retail space will be added; all seven outbuildings will be demolished; 306% new or 4.6 acres of roads, buildings and other paved or impervious surface will be added (1.5 acres to 6.1 acres); iron entry gate will be replaced with "classic estate feel with some sweeping curved walls and steps to the plaza"; forty foot tall mixed use commercial building will overpower main building; scenic gateway to the hamlet will be replaced with high density mixed used residential complex

-since the start of SEQRA reviews, fifteen months ago, YHPC documented historic issues in over thirty-memos to the Planning Board and Public Record; we indicated the Planning Board failed to perform the hard look across numerous SEQRA categories (archaeological, historic, architecture, aesthetic, neighborhood /community character, land use intensity)

-we were essentially ignored during the process

-we alerted SHPO that most, if not all, historic issues were not resolved and to wait until they were to sign the Letter of Resolution; the site plan resolution identifies a plan for a plan (historic issues unresolved and not approved by the Planning Board) for the main building, pond, stone walls, iron gate; SHPO signed the LOR on August 2, 2023

-YHPC agreed to move forward to complete and file Underhill Farm landmark proposal with Town Board; discussed and planned during prior YHPC meetings: January 12, 2022, February 9, 2022, April 20, 2022, May 11, 2022, July 13, 2022, August 10, 2022, November 16, 2022, December 14, 2022, January 11, 2023, February 8, 2023,

-draft 99% complete, received advocacy letters from five entities, each request is customized

-On July 17, 2023, 920am, submitted cover letter and attachments: cover letter, landmark proposal, abutting properties map and list

-Discussed and gained consensus agreement that the YHPC will submit the final landmark application when complete to the Town Board with a request for a Public Hearing

### **8. Student Research Projects**

#### **With WCC/Historic Preservation Certificate Program**

-waiting for new batch of students; 24 on boarded to date who helped with a variety of projects including Rochambeau French encampment research, landmarking

#### **Shrub Oak International School**

-reached out to Lori Josephs re 2023 program interest; no heard back

-cleaned 105 out 550 to date

### **Local High Schools**

- Yorktown High School Student Sophomore Matthew Pilot contacted us several months and asked if we would support him in an Eagle Scout project
- Matthew wanted to clean the grave markers of those Fallen Heroes on whose graves at Shrub Oak Cemetery he has been placing American Flags for several years
- met with Matthew, established project objectives, timeline, deliverables
- leveraging the Shrub Oak International experience, Matt and I cleaned the first Fallen Hero marker
- Matt performed the Eagle Scout project successfully and was signed off by this oversight team and the Shrub Oak Cemetery
- the end results included cleaning 47 Fallen Heroes grave markers, with about twenty volunteers
- his project was covered by News 12
- on August 28, the YHPC reached out to Supervisor on for ten minutes to present his project to the community; no date scheduled yet

### **Yorktown High School Volunteers**

- On August 20, at the Hole in One Golf Event at the Links at Valley Field at the YHPC/RW250 Booth, secured three students to volunteer at our May 18/19 2024 Follow the French: Rochambeau Festival

### **9. Certificates of Appropriateness**

- J. Vigilante reported the basement door collapsed and police were called to the Community Church
- contractor delayed in replacing the door per the January 26, 2021, Certificate of Appropriateness approval; also increased cost to donor of funding
- alternate contractor to be secured
  
- Completed the CoA for the Community Church steps on December 15, 2022; project completed; painting still pending
  
- Pending roofing replacement decision and updated CoA input from Bridget Krowe, Davenport House, to finalize CoA

### **10. Public Relations**

Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (W3R) Newsletter – received May and July coverage regarding our Follow the French: Rochambeau Festival; sent to Town Board members

### **11. Website and Facebook - Jessica Cox**

- update the home of distinction application
- main page updates made
- R. Steinberg must execute any changes to the photos/copy of HHDs and landmarks (ARCGIS)

('scrolls")

- Upload additional Certificates of Appropriateness and Resolutions
- Update and optimize the menu to be more clear (easier access to HHD & Landmarks scroll, separate out section for applications, tuck less frequently used pages under a heading)
- Change bullets and adjust where the print option appears on each page (currently shows up in a different place everywhere)
- Populate Public outreach page
- Update the press release page