

III. Meeting Minutes for Yorktown Heritage Preservation Commission (YHPC) – November 30, 2023

Location: Town Board Room, 363 Underhill Avenue, 7pm

Attendees: Bridget Krowe, Tom McLoughlin, Lynn Briggs, Nancy Milanese

1. Budget and Funding Efforts

1a. Town of Yorktown Budget - As of 11/01/2023

Account T.0082.0001 Homes of Distinction \$537.42

Account T.0082.0002 Landmark Preservation \$1393.55

Account 0479.0005-\$500.00

Total \$2430.97

1b. The Town has a target budget for the YHPC to receive \$3000 in 2024.

1c. Westchester County Board of Legislator Funding Request Received for 2023

As a contingency to receiving Town Board funding, on December 1, 2022, submitted funding request for \$17443 to Westchester County Board of Legislators, through our legislator, Vedat Gashi

-Received BOL funding for \$17443 on November 17 for two programs in:

Bronze Marker Program

...four bronze marker replacements of 25 year old plywood markers

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

-developed proposed copy with sources

Videos of Yorktown Historic Sites

-Two videos of historic sites: a) The Story of Revolutionary War and General Rochambeau Encampments in Yorktown and b) Yorktown Historic sites (excluding encampments) are being produced

-conducted kick off meeting with Hollywood East Productions on November 22

-first step includes: identifying every historic site, location and profile of why historic

-second step includes: review for historic accuracy and in and of scope decisions

-third step includes: sequence the self-guided tour as companion to the videos

1d. Submitted Request for Westchester County Board of Legislator Funding Request for 2024 Rochambeau Festival, May 18-19, 2024

-requested \$13,188 to fund the second annual Rochambeau Festival at Rochambeau Park

-provided preliminary agenda and documentation of successful 2023 event

Visioning Study and Master Plan

- requested \$6,000 to fund visioning study for repurposing the Strang Tavern Components (outbuilding at 800 Granite Springs Road relocated from across the street at corner of Granite Springs and Route 202 around 1830; original Strang Tavern)
- Historically significant: Major Andre stop through Yorktown with plans to fortress West Point in his boot
- Worked with the home owner, draftsman and disassembly contractor to save, identify and prepare the posts and beams from the original Strang Tavern
- took numerous videos: interviewed home owner, post and beam expert, volunteer architect
- disassembly funding supplied by Board of Legislators, Vedat Gashi legislator
- stored in secure location pending visioning study and master plan development and funding support to repurpose as Cultural Heritage Center for 2026, 250th US birthday of American independence

1e. Submitted request to Senator Harckham

- conducted Zoom with Senator Harckham and his business development assistant on November 29
- requested funding support for our May 18-19 event
- focus should be education, especially our youth / students
- requested \$3500 in funding for bus rental to create bus tour of encampment locations, historic sites; tour buses to leave every hour from the Rochambeau Festival, Rochambeau Park

2. Support Requested of Supervisor Diana-February 1, 2023

- been requesting storage space for seven years of historic records per NY State records law
- requested storage space in the museum, YCCC, Engineering Department, supervisors
- learned that the YCCC may have space in Room 226; configuration with larger room, accommodate a table, and three smaller rooms with doors that could be affixed with lock
- alerted Town Clerk who will create resolution for Town Board approval

3. Homes of Historic Distinction

Lenseth Property-No activity

- For future focus, 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.

Community Church Parsonage,

- Pastor Joe Vigilante interested in recognizing his parsonage at the corner of Baptist Church Road and Huntersville Road
- Sent HHD application and prior CoA for reference

4. Proposed Landmarks

Isaac Underhill House-On Hold

- 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)

Hilltop Hanover Farm-On Hold

- 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

Underhill Farm-Landmark Recommendation

- due to technical reasons, needed to restart the landmarking process; introduced motion to landmark the Underhill Farm property via resolution; seconded by the YHPC member and the YHPC passed the motion
- next steps include updating the YHPC resolution to designate the property as a Yorktown landmark
- once received, in compliance the preservation law, the Town Board convenes the Underhill Farm Public Hearing within 45 days of receiving the YHPC landmark recommendation

8. Student Research Projects-No Activity

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

Shrub Oak International School-No Activity

- Caitlin Sweetapple, Director of Research, is formulating the Community Church marker cleaning program for 2024
- 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 May 21st
- Matthew presented to the Town Board on October 17 with his parents and mentor, John McQuillan present; his presentation included the clip from News 12
- Matthew's court of honor presentation scheduled for December 9; YHPC chair has been asked to speak

9. Certificates of Appropriateness

No activity

10. Public Relations

No activity

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