

## Palmyra Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2014

Present: Chair Ellie Drake, Cochair Jim Elliott, Commissioners Chris Daly, Rebecca Remington. Board Liaison Vicky Daly, Consulting Architect Mark Vande.

Absent: Commissioner Michael Haskins.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

Minutes: Jim Elliott made a motion to accept the minutes, Rebecca Remington seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Zombie Homes: Channel 10 did multi-day segments on Zombie Homes. Pittsford has a local law regarding this problem, we can check with them about the verbiage. Vicky Daly said she would find out who the Pittsford Preservation Commission Chair is. It was suggested that Planning and Zoning be included in the request for a Zombie home law for Palmyra.

Sampson House: Jacques Savoie purchased the Sampson House at auction without having seen the interior of the building. Vicky Daly approached him and offered whatever assistance the Preservation Commission could provide, including connecting him to preservation resources, such as SHPO and the Landmark Society. Mr. Savoie told her that the house was not ready to be nominated locally or federally for landmark status, and he also declined an invitation to be a 9<sup>th</sup> Period History Class speaker, as he felt that there was still too much work to be done. Unfortunately, the amount of work the house required was more than one person could handle in his spare time, and the building became a hazard, attracting animals and curious children. Mr. Savoie had no choice but to raze it, per village directive. Vicky called him at the request of the mayor when it was obvious that something needed to be done. Jacques indicated during that call that he had come to that conclusion on his own and that he would meet with Mr. Wooden.

The commission discussed what we could do to try to prevent this kind of loss in the future. The commissioners thought that we could get in touch with the code office to see when buildings in the historic district require a building application. A conversation or email to Dan Wooden probably would be the most efficient way of getting this info.

May 2015, Preservation Month: The commissioners thought that a series of articles, one a week, in the local papers might be a good way to promote preservation that month. Topics include: Interview of Joan DeCann; the bandstand; loss of historic structures; and tours of the village buildings. Gary Hopkins will be asked if he would discuss the band stand during the tours. Gary will be asked what weekend he has free to do so. It would be an opportunity to promote a "Friends of the Bandstand" committee.

Local Nomination: Joan DeCann agreed to have her home nominated as a local landmark. Ellie Drake said that she would email Joan with an attached application.

Ninth Period History Class: The commissioners proposed upcoming speakers.

Spotlights: The commissioners proposed a schedule of spotlights for the upcoming year.

Audit Letter: Ellie Drake will give Mayor Piccola a draft of the letter that responds to the audit's recommendations. Rebecca Remington agreed to create a "Preserve Palmyra" Facebook page. Ellie Drake is going to check with Bill Unterborn, the village webmaster, about putting the Architectural Guidelines online, and she will send Bill the NRHP descriptions of buildings in the historic districts.

Village Board Meeting: Ellie Drake will report to the board the Preservation Commission plans for 2015. Jim Elliott agreed to stay on the Commission for another term. Jim Elliott said he would talk to John Robbins about possibly being an alternate, and possibly John Vrubel.

Past Training: Mark Vande, Vicky Daly, Jim Elliott and Ellie Drake all attended the 2014 Landmark Society annual conference.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

TO DO's:

Vicky Daly: find out who the chairs of Planning and Zoning are; the painter's last name; if Michael Haskins will stay on the committee for a new term; reserve boardroom in January, April, July, October (5<sup>th</sup> Thursdays.)

Ellie Drake: Send Joan DeCann an application and request letter; get in touch with Dan W., Planning and Zoning, and Rick Perry and Chris Piccola re: Zombie house law.