

ST. MARGARET'S COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting

March 23, 2010

Members present: Chairwoman Paula Schoonmaker, Linda Keeling, Rosemarie Zengen

Advisor: John Kuhn

Councilman Harry Colgan, Secretary Susan Ellis

Chairwoman Paula Schoonmaker called the meeting to order at 4:10 P.M. For the minutes of the March 8 (rescheduled from February 23) meeting, Linda Keeling asked that under the Earth Day paragraph, the Fairgrounds be identified as the Dutchess County Fairgrounds. The minutes were approved as amended with a motion made by Linda Keeling and seconded by Rosemarie Zengen.

LANDSCAPE INVENTORY UPDATE: Following the proposal by arborist James Cadorette to do a landscape inventory, Chairwoman Paula Schoonmaker contacted the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP) and spoke with Ron Rader and Technical Advisor Stacey Matson-Zuvic. They approve of the inventory, noting that while it is not necessary to map every tree, those that are significant should be photo documented, as well as located on a map. Any significant trees slated for removal should be located and marked with a symbol showing that they will be removed. John Kuhn agreed that there would be a good advantage to having photos. The Committee discussed the definition of significance. The members agreed to use James Cadorette's definition.

Paula said that James Cadorette will give recommendations of a list of trees that would be successful on the site. The Tree Committee would be included in making final choices. Paula noted that where the large willow needs to be removed, perhaps it will be replaced with a comparable, but hardier, species. Linda Keeling added that the Tree Committee has a fund for planting.

PRESERVATION ARCHITECT UPDATE: Chairwoman Paula Schoonmaker reported that there were 22 inquiries from the Request for Proposals, and 5 submissions of proposals. The Town Board will choose a group with citizens and two Town Board members to review the submissions and make recommendations, using weighted criteria.

HISTORICAL MARKER: Chairwoman Paula Schoonmaker reported that Amy Dubin has e-mailed Winty Aldrich to ask where to get an historical marker, and if he would draft the language to apply. Winty replied that he would e-mail a draft of the language and pay the cost of the sign. Rosemarie Zengen noted that a thank you letter should be sent to Winty, which Paula said that she would do.

WEBSITE: Chairwoman Paula Schoonmaker reported that she has looked at others on the Computer and copied samples of what they have done. Linda Keeling noted that Webmaster Dick Wambach has indicated that he could do a door opening to reveal information and welcome lookers to the St. Margaret's site. Councilman Harry Colgan said that might be fine when the building is done, but it should be simple in the meantime, as it is a work in progress. Rosemarie Zengen suggested that the samples look too old.

Linda Keeling suggested a press release on the website with a picture of the site as it is now.

It should be put as a link on the Town website, as Harry Colgan noted that a stand alone website will have a charge. Rosemarie Zengen suggested that Dick Wambach be asked to attend the next St. Margaret's Committee meeting; Paula will ask.

PRESERVE NEW YORK GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES: There are three types of proposals that may qualify for the Preserve New York Grant Program, which has a deadline of May 17, 2010.

- 1.) Historic structure reports
- 2.) Historic landscape reports (\$3,000 – \$15,000 available)
- 3.) Cultural resource surveys

Chairwoman Paula Schoonmaker noted that the Cultural Resource survey has already been done, and she is interested in the Historic Landscape Report. Paula has e-mailed to ask if it is appropriate. John Kuhn noted that the original landscape might have been done by A.J. Downing. John would be willing to work with Paula to develop a proposal. Rosemarie Zengen made a motion seconded by Linda Keeling that Paula and John work to apply for the Preserve New York grant. There was discussion of a formal match for the grant; The inventory that James Cadorette will develop should qualify for "in kind" match. John Kuhn thought that Amy Ferrella at Bard College might help. John noted that the report of "Recommended Urban Trees" done by Cornell University would consider many of the existing trees on the site inappropriate.

SITE CLEAN-UP: John Kuhn met with Susan Goldstein who leads the Interact Club at Camp Ramapo. The Interact Club and the High School Leadership Program will bring students to pick up debris at St. Margaret's on Saturday, March 27 from 2 P.M. – 4 P.M. Rosemarie Zengen stressed that someone from the Committee should be there; John Kuhn, Paula Schoonmaker and Jeff Tremper can be there.

John added that they are working to get a mason to teach students to build stone walls, so that there would be help rebuilding some stone walls. Rosemarie Zengen said that there should be further investigation before doing any project on stone walls, and that students shouldn't be doing it; the Committee should oversee any project. Paula Schoonmaker noted that any stone wall proposal would have to be submitted to NYSOPRHP technical advisor Stacey Matson-Zivic.

John Kuhn reported that Rick Elwin is scheduled to remove trees on March 29. John and Paula will be there.

Linda Keeling asked when fill would be delivered. Doug Strawinski and John Kuhn spoke at length with Bucky Coon. John Kuhn noted that there is good material at the side of the road with little salt, but it needs a layer of topsoil on top. One thing needed at St. Margaret's is to have a good sub base, because the lawn needs to be rolled. Linda asked about removal of the tree roots. There will be stump grinding, but the roots will decay and leave depressions. The property originally drained from Route 9 to the back, but Hannaford's leach field raised the drainage.

John Kuhn is taking a photo of the barn in the back to have it looked at by Matt King who runs a construction class at the High School. Winty Aldrich told John Kuhn that the barn was built about 1910 and has no historical value. John would like to get a reproduction that would be useful. He would send plans to the NYSOPRHP and would arrange to set up the project.

HARDSCRABBLE DAY: Rosemarie Zengen reported that Amy Dubin has found a great door and put a wreath on it with “Welcome to St. Margaret’s.” On the panels, photos of then and now will be arranged. There will be two wicker tables on the sides and a small table with a flower arrangement. There will be a table next to it with flyers, a raffle and a donation basket. Rosemarie added that it would cost \$1,800 for a horse and carriage to transport visitors to St. Margaret’s; Ed Blundell has suggested trying an old limosine. Linda Keeling suggested the Dutchess County Trolley.

Linda asked what visitors would get when they reached St. Margaret’s. One suggestion was to ask Patty Bowman for ice cream from Holy Cow. Rosemarie Zengen will investigate whether the Sweet Adelines or another barbershop quartet might sing from 11 A.M. – 3 P.M. John Kuhn will ask if the High School jazz band would play, and will ask Stewarts for some contribution.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 29, 2010 at 4 P.M. at the Town Hall

**** NOTE DATE CHANGE****

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary

