

ST. MARGARET'S COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting

April 29, 2010

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

Advisors Doug Strawinski, John Kuhn

Councilman Harry Colgan, Secretary Susan Ellis

Guest: Dick Wambach, Town Webmaster

Chairwoman Paula Schoonmaker called the meeting to order at 4:05 P.M.

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 23, 2010 MEETING: The following corrections were made to the minutes of the March 23 meeting. On page 2, Linda Keeling noted that she suggested that a press release be made acknowledging the website, with inclusion of a photo of the site as it is now. On page 2, paragraph 3, Linda Keeling requested a copy of the Cultural Resource Survey. (Paula Schoonmaker said that she would meet with Linda and show her the archeological report.). On page 3 under Next Meeting, Linda requested that the notation include that the next meeting was supposed to be held on Tuesday, April 27. Under Hardscrabble Day, Rosemarie Zengen noted that she had found the door that she and Amy Dubin were considering using for the Hardscrabble Day display. The minutes of the March 23 meeting as amended were approved with a motion made by Rosemarie Zengen and seconded by Linda Keeling.

DISCUSSION OF WEBSITE: Chairwoman Paula Schoonmaker introduced Town Webmaster Dick Wambach, who was invited to discuss what the St. Margaret's Committee could do to set up a website. Dick reported that he has prepared for the Committee a section that would be a part of the Town website. He will do it free of charge under the Town contract. A separate website would require a cost. Dick was asked about a "flash entry" with the opening door as a welcome to St. Margaret's. He noted that it would cost about \$100 per hour to hire a special technician to set it up.

Dick Wambach asked what the Committee wants on the site. He suggested that the Dennis Griffin rendering of the St. Margaret's Home would be a nice introduction. Amy Dubin said that the artist rendering might look too much like a commercial site plan, and that it might be misleading because of the restoration plans to remove the paint to the original brownstone. Dick said that he could put a picture of the Home as it is now and change it as work is done. He felt that the line drawing of the house would be a good masthead/background tied into the design of the site.

In order to see whether the site will need links to other sites, Dick needs to know the content required by the Committee. Rosemarie Zengen and Linda Keeling have done some work on the website idea, and would like "a landmark owned by the Town of Red Hook and listed on the National Register of Historic Places" to be included. Dick suggested that there be a form included for comments and suggestions to the Committee, and a link to the minutes. He noted that as the website expands beyond the page, there could be links added for a photo gallery, invitations to an event, or a form for people who wish to ask questions. Amy Dubin said that would mean that someone would have to manage the information, and she did not know if there is a reason to be interactive at this time. If the site is interactive, Dick suggested that when anyone contacted the Committee, the Committee would want information to contact them. He asked if a survey would be of interest.

Committee discussion set a format that page one would be a welcome with a picture and a brief history, followed by the goals of the Committee, the present work and coming events, with bullets requesting residents' help by funding one of the restoration projects, donating needed equipment, or offering time and labor. Amy Dubin suggested that the order should be changed to reflect the urgency of the present work, and put the goals after.

Councilman Harry Colgan asked if the site could be done piecemeal. Dick said that he could start with a home page and could start arranging files, etc. in preparation of the sub-web as a unique address, suggesting www.st.margaret'shome.redhook.org. Dick noted that the Committee does not have a Committee page, as yet, which it should. Councilman Harry Colgan said that work should start on the home page. The Committee thanked Dick Wambach for his input and looks forward to working together on the web information.

TREE REMOVAL: John Kuhn reported that four trees had been cut down yesterday (March 22), but not removed yet. Some work was being done today, and on Sunday, May 2, 2010, a work crew including the Interact Club and adults will meet at 12 P.M. to drag limbs and brush to where the Highway Department can feed them into a chipper. Rosemarie Zengen stressed that the Tree Committee should be contacted anytime work is done on trees. John noted that he, Paula, Amy Foster-Bard, Michele Decker and Nancy Guski will be working on the project.

Paula Schoonmaker noted on the Committee report an announcement that catalpa wood is good for carving, and the wood would be free to anyone who wants to haul it away. John Kuhn said that Rick Elwin estimated that there are 15 dead trees remaining that are too tall to take down personally, and the willow in front still to do. Rick noted that he would have to come with a lift and cut them. He offered to do the work for \$1,000, which the Committee felt was very reasonable. John Kuhn said that the Committee would finish the work of cutting up the felled trees.

Amy Dubin suggested that the Committee should consider a fence. John said that Paula had the idea of planting roses or other backup vegetation to discourage walking through the back. John Kuhn asked how amenable Hannaford would be to having the Committee clear the scrub brush on the rocky hill. Rosemarie Zengen offered to speak to the district manager at Hannaford.

John Kuhn asked what the blue stakes represented. Paula Schoonmaker suggested that they marked location of utilities. Paula added that they need to be marked and mapped, that the Committee should have an existing conditions map. Doug Strawinski said that the map should be an "as built" map.

PRESERVATION ARCHITECT: There have been 5 submissions, but no signed contract yet.

HISTORICAL MARKER: Winty Aldrich has given Amy Dubin a draft of the wording for the marker, which the Committee discussed. There were ideas for some revisions to make it simple and clear. The Committee was interested in correctly listing what purpose it was built for. Amy Dubin will rework the wording with Winty Aldrich.

PRESERVE NEW YORK GRANT: Paula Schoonmaker and John Kuhn looked at the requirements for the Preserve New York Grant. Paula read it several times and both concluded that it was not the right grant at this time.

Paula reported that Stacey Matson-Zuvic, the regional advisor from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP), came for a site visit and spoke about how to make a landscape plan workable and similar to the original, but not a strict restoration. The Committee must start with an existing conditions site plan. Amy Dubin asked if there are any programs for student interns or senior projects, possibly from the New York Botanical Gardens or Cornell University.

SHED REMOVAL: The shed in the back has to be removed, and John Kuhn has located a Boy Scout who needs an Eagle Scout project. He is Dr. Ron Pope's son and he will remove and document the findings at the shed, including saving some representative pieces. Stacey Matson-Zuvic said that it didn't need to be complicated, but to have the Scout make display boards and do historical research. Doug Strawinski is looking into acquiring a dumpster and display boards. He stressed the importance of historical documentation. Amy Dubin asked if the work has to be done in a specific format. John Kuhn said that it does, and the proposal has to be submitted to the Committee. Doug Strawinski and John Kuhn suggested that Larry Thetford would be a knowledgeable coordinator; John will call about the proposal.

John Kuhn asked if the Committee wants the proposal in writing; Paula answered yes, with diagrams, photos and documentary video, which could be put on PANDA. Linda Keeling noted that the Committee would own the work.

Norm Greig's dirt is available. Paula asked Cooperative Extension if it would be usable with so many weeds, and was told that it would be okay if it is mixed with other dirt, rototilled together and seeded.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 at 4 P.M. at the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary