

ST. MARGARET'S COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting

June 29, 2010

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

Advisors: John Kuhn, Doug Strawinski

Town Councilman Harry Colgan, Secretary Susan Ellis

Guests: Wint Aldrich, Michael Brown

Chairwoman Paula Schoonmaker called the meeting to order at 4:05 P.M. She introduced Michael Brown as a potential Committee member. Michael gave his background as 30 years of work in professional historic preservation, and 5 years as a New York City Landmarks Commissioner. He has submitted a letter of interest to the Town Board.

MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING OF ST. MARGARET'S COMMITTEE: Linda Keeling noted that on the 4th line of the May minutes, "of" should be removed, that in the 2nd sentence of the Preservation Architect section, EPF should be defined as the Environmental Protection Fund, and that in the third paragraph, RFP should be defined as Request For Proposal.

Under the Hannaford Brush Removal section, Rosemarie Zengen noted that Manager Marsha Graham asked Rosemarie if she is going to be the official liaison from St. Margaret's Committee. Rosemarie also requested that the figure of \$500 be removed from the discussion, adding that Ms. Graham will have done what is within her budget. Rosemarie requested that the sentence "If the clean-up does not exceed...." be removed. She added that Hannaford does not want anyone else to work on their property because of liability issues, and Ms Graham suggested that Hannaford might do some landscaping.

Committee members discussed having the minutes headed as "Draft," and changing the protocol of distributing draft minutes. Paula Schoonmaker noted that approved minutes may replace draft minutes. The minutes of the May meeting as amended were approved with a motion made by Linda Keeling and seconded by Amy Dubin.

COMMUNITY CAPITAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CCAP) GRANT UPDATE:

Chairwoman Paula Schoonmaker reported that the Town has requested that architect Stephen Tilly submit an estimate for drawing up plans and specification for the roof repair, has requested a separation of the CCAP grant money into phases, and has received a 6 month deadline extension for the work. Stephen Tilly also has suggested dividing the construction into Phase I and Phase II. Paula has asked for a budget and a timeline; the contract will do the main roof first, then the porch roof. Linda Keeling asked how secure the grant money is. Paula replied that payments on grants are late, but are being made.

SITE VISIT WITH ARCHITECT STEPHEN TILLY: On June 24, architect Stephen Tilly spent the day at St. Margaret's Home with three assistants, and did measurements on the roof. There is a sticking point in that there has not been a response from CCAP to the plans.

Doug Strawinski and Councilman Harry Colgan spoke with Stephen; Doug discussed being as efficient as possible. They offered as a group to do photos or other measurements for the architect. Doug noted that they can leave the fascia, but need to take off the soffit to look at the condition of the

rafters and take samples. Michael Brown asked if there would be any way to tell if they were original. Doug noted that as there is no visibility of the main roof, it is not an issue to replace it in original material, but they need to be more particular on the porch roof. Amy Dubin noted that she uses a restoration firm to reproduce corbels after the roof is done, and suggested a “purchase a corbel” funding project. Paula Schoonmaker noted that the important point is to stop the roof leaks.

WEBSITE: Paula Schoonmaker spoke with Dick Wambach about progress on a website link for St. Margaret’s Committee. Dick has been too inundated with other work to do it yet.

HISTORICAL MARKER: Wint Aldrich reported that the Catskill Foundry is producing the marker, in cast aluminum with the blue and yellow State colors. The Committee needs to get standards (pipes) and perhaps have a Town crew dig the holes. John Kuhn noted that if they need 4” pipes, he has them from the Norrie Point boat basin. Rosemarie Zengen asked about placement and suggested that the plaque be near the door and the marker be near the highway, but not near the entrance drive. The Committee thanked Wint for the donation of the marker and plaque; Harry Colgan brought the proposal to the Town Board, and it was approved. Wint commended John Kuhn and all who have helped clean up the site.

SHED REMOVAL: Paula Schoonmaker asked for a report on the Eagle Scout project. John Kuhn has e-mailed them, but has no reply; the proposal has to be approved by the Boy Scout Council.. John Kuhn reported that more has been cleared out around the shed, so that it is accessible. They have determined a staging area for the work. They are looking to hear back from Dr. Rogers and his son who would do the project. Michael Brown said that the Boy Scouts need to know the State guidelines; John Kuhn said that he has them. John asked who would be the official liaison from the Committee. The Committee agreed to have Linda Keeling act as liaison.

The Committee discussed who decides what is kept as artifacts from the shed. Stacey Matson-Zuvic has said that anything such as hinges, hardware or evidence of the era should be used for the display to be created. Amy Dubin asked if demolition projects always saved old studs and are any of them okay. John Kuhn and Councilman Harry Colgan said the answer is no. Michael Brown asked if it were possible that the shed had been built on the footprint of another structure.

The project plan needs to be reviewed and approved by the Committee with all its details. Wint asked if there are any photographs of the shed; Paula replied yes, some from 1992. John Kuhn has spoken with Colonel Orrin Thompson, who said that he kept a Model T in it during time that he lived there, but John noted that he might be thinking of one of the other outbuildings. Wint thought that the garage was built by the Thompsons and wondered if there were screens, etc, but didn’t find them. He will follow up with the family and speak with the daughter to see if she can give any information.

Greenhouse Consultants were the original consultants who did archeology and hopefully have photos. Wint says that the photos should have been given to the State. Paula Schoonmaker noted that the Data Recovery Plan says that they should be offered to the Egbert Benson Historical Society.

Rosemarie Zengen mentioned information from Dr. Wallace about the St. Margaret’s sign. Marirose Blum Bump said that she can get the sign. Rosemarie said that she would ask Paul Fredericks about it, and Paula Schoonmaker will follow up.

HARDSCABBLE DAY ACTIVITIES: The date is September 26, 2010. Rosemarie Zengen said that the Committee should definitely do fundraising and information. Rosemarie asked the Committee

if she could request that Dr. Verrilli bring some of his antique cars for transporting people to St. Margaret's Home. Michael Brown asked if the house could be open; the Committee felt that it would be too difficult now. Paula Schoonmaker noted that if the construction work is in progress, having visitors at the site may not be possible. She added that perhaps the porch could be dressed up with donated plants and lawn furniture. Linda Keeling suggested having musicians on the porch; Rosemarie felt that it would take funds to have someone reliable.

Rosemarie reported that she spoke with Hardscrabble Day Coordinator Ed Blundell, and that St. Margaret's Committee would have display space at the north end of the lawn of the old Telephone Company building. She discussed having refreshments, contribution forms and information, noting that the primary goal is to let people know what is happening at the Home. Rosemarie added that she needs one person to lay out the display board. Rosemarie Zengen and Linda Keeling will work on fundraising.

Rosemarie Zengen made a motion, seconded by Linda Keeling, to have the exhibit and display at the old Telephone Company building. The Committee approved. Rosemarie Zengen made a motion to ask Dr. Verrilli if he is willing to contribute several cars and drivers to drive from the exhibit to St. Margaret's Home following a route approved by Ed Blundell and be in the parade. Linda Keeling seconded the motion and the Committee approved.

Michael Brown said that he can do a door with "Welcome to St. Margaret's" for the exhibit area. Rosemarie asked if he could bring a photo of the door and dimensions for the next meeting. Rosemarie Zengen, Linda Keeling and Michael Brown will be the subcommittee for the Hardscrabble Day activities.

ARCHEOLOGICAL REPORT: Linda Keeling has been reading the report. She noted that any artifacts should be stored at the State Museum, not at the Town. The Town should have a photo inventory, but not the artifacts themselves. Paula Schoonmaker said that the Town must follow the State Recovery Plan. She added that Cynthia Blakemore, the archeologist for the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP) would need to apply for accession of artifacts. Hannaford would have to pay costs of transport and accession.

John Kuhn noted that the site is ready for dirt to be put at the north end and asked if he could call Bucky Coons to deliver it and if he could seed with grass.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, July 27, 2010 at 4 P.M. at the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary