

# DRAFT

Town of Red Hook

St. Margaret's Committee

**Minutes:** May 30, 2014

**Attendance:** Chairman Paul Fredricks, Michael Brown, Kathy Douris, Ralph Frisenda, Rosemarie Zengen. Liaison- Dr. James Ross

**Absent:** Patrick Hildenbrand

**Guests:** Lottie Kitner, Arlene Wege, and Poughkeepsie Paranormal Investigators (PPI)

**Location:** The Red Hook Grange Hall

**Call To Order:** Chairman Paul Fredricks called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M. There was a quorum.

**Motion:** *Michael Brown made a motion to accept the minutes of The April 16, 2014 Meeting. Ralph Frisenda seconded the motion. All Agreed.*

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. We received a check for a \$500.00 donation from Ms. Magrite. It was submitted to Debbie Marks.
2. County Executive Marcus Molinaro will have survey questions ready by our June Meeting.
3. Rosemarie Zengen will write The County Executive a letter of thanks after we receive questions.
4. Kim Keil, from Valley Energy, will have her opinion and estimate of what has to be done concerning St. Margaret's Heating System by June, 2014 meeting. Our guest Arlene Wege, interjected that Kim Keil is truly Red Hook Community- oriented. Ms. Keil, she added, is very involved with The Red Hook Chamber.

## NEW BUSINESS:

1. Members of The Poughkeepsie Paranormal Investigators, who were present took the floor.

Poughkeepsie Paranormal Investigators (PPI)

([www.poughkeepsiejournalparanormalinvestigators.webs.com](http://www.poughkeepsiejournalparanormalinvestigators.webs.com)) consists of a team of eight professionals who dedicate their time to those who believe there may be paranormal activity on their property. Says founder Jimmy, "We handle each person and case with the utmost respect and do whatever your wishes are during our investigation."

The Committee members were curious as to what PPI might discover in a building that had housed so many people and had so many uses since the 1850s, and they decided to accept the offer of a free "cleansing". PPI members, accompanied by Donna Parish-Bischoff, local author and co-founder of IndyPara Paranormal Investigators ([www.indypara.com](http://www.indypara.com)), brought their recording equipment and heightened senses to St. Margaret's one night last May and spent nine hours quietly, patiently waiting for communication with the past. Donna, along with Arra Mowry and Ed Bates of PPI met with The St. Margaret's Committee in June and reported their result and some good news.

"St. Margaret's, as we can all attest to, is very friendly," Arra confirmed. "It was happy. From the moment I walked in, I said, 'You know I really feel happy here.' It felt like everybody was enjoying themselves that had lived there." She, Donna, and another PPI member chose an upstairs room in the rear of St. Margaret's, while Ed and the other technicians investigated the basement area. At the June presentation, Arra brought a laptop to exhibit photos and play back some eerie sounds that they had recorded.

"You may not see it right away, but there is a shadow right here," said Arra, pointing to a distinct shadow on the screen's image. "That means something has moved in front of my camera. It's not uncommon for an entity or a spirit to move a lot, it kind of floats around. We do believe it's the spirits of children in St. Margaret's. We know there is also a history of convicts having lived there, but we didn't feel anything like that."

Donna had brought a very low-tech piece of equipment that yielded some interesting results: a motion-activated cat toy that lights up and moves. "The rooms are pretty big, and Arra and I were at opposite ends with the toy in the center of the room, so we weren't close enough to set

it off," Donna said. But something was.

Arra added, "We were sitting up there, and Donna was explaining to the children that may be there what this thing was, and all of a sudden the light went on, and it was in motion."

The team also recorded a number of EVPs (electronic voice phenomena), voices and sounds that they picked up in the building that they worked together to try and interpret. Arra played the first sound a number of times for The Committee members to interpret it themselves then offered her theory.

"What Donna and I thought we were hearing is the sound of those old-fashioned metal beds being dragged across the floor. It happened five times. We could almost picture how the young girls lived there back then. We don't know what happened there except that's where they lived and went to school. We're assumming that it was morning time, and the girls had to move their beds to get ready fot their schooling. When we think we are in the presence of children, Donna and I tend to speak as parents to children-- nicely and quietly-- so as not to scare them."

The men downstairs that night got some good 'hits'. Arra prepared The Commiittee before listening to another recording. "Now this sound is an unexplained banging or footsteps. We're not sure what it was yet. To me, it sounds like there's a whisper behind it. When we have these EVPs, it does not necessarily mean that the place is haunted. Haunted implies tha it's a scary, negative place, but we flet *nothing* malevolent there. It seemed, if anything, very happy."

Ed Bates shred his experience. "I heard someone saying my name, 'Edward'. Then we heard a whole sentence. I think there were two spirits discussing us. When I go in places and set up the equipment, I talk to them all, introduce myself. So I get that all the time. That's cool, to get your name called. I make sure they know I respect them. I respect the house. I love it. I've been doing this for 30 years."

Mr. Mulcahy could not meet with The Committee but addressed everyone via speakerphone. "Everything that we dealt with in St. Margaret's we feel was all residual energy," he said. "Residual energy is like a broken record, an event that took place at a certain, perhaps the original owners left an imprint of their energy, and that's what is occuring here, and that's what we're documenting. Spirit voices usually speak within a white noise, that's

their frequency. When we review our findings later, we often have to slow down the speed of the recording equipment we use so we can enhance the sounds and bring them out, make sense of what was actually heard rather than just random sounds. There may be actual voices. There's nothing to cause alarm or fear, nothing that would cause harm. We may hear it or see it, but the spirits have no clue that we're there."

Arra summed up: "We have the passion to ge answers. We know the spirits exist, we have theories as to why they exist. We just don't know how they can be here. That's the question that's been asked centuries."

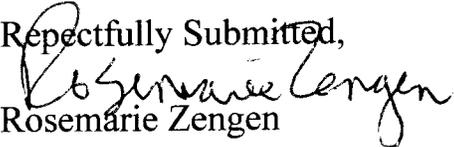
Donna emphasized, "We want to help people. We all have day jobs. We do this because we have the passion of the science of the afterlife. We're just in this to help people when we can. Most people are a little feint of heart to do this, but they are interested, so that's why they call us in, and we try to help the best we can."

2. After The Paranormal Investigators gave the results of their investigation Rosemarie Zengen suggested that we hold a Fund-Raising Lecture on The North Lawn at St. Margaret's presented by PPI. The Commiittee felt that it was a good idea. It was suggested we charge \$25.00 (twenty-five dollars) a ticket.

**Adjournment:**

*Ralph Frisenda made a motion to adjourn at 9:15 P.M. Mike Brown seconded the motion. All Agreed.*

Our next meeting: June 25, 2014 at 4:00 P.M at The Grange Hall in Red Hook.

Respectfully Submitted,  
  
Rosemarie Zengen