

# HERITAGE WORKING GROUP MEETING

## SUMMARY NOTES

DATE: 25 May 2022 – 5.30pm –6.30pm

Attendees: Tobi Farley, Arthur King, Karen Davala, Paul Naprstek - Sally Baker – PBI

### SUMMARY NOTES of Agenda Items:

#### 1. Comments on Draft of Summary Notes 4/20/22 meeting

No comments received. Meeting Notes will be published to PBI webpage.

#### 2. Intro & “Welcome!” for new members to the Heritage Working Group

Sally introduced Paul Naprstek as a new member. Paul spoke to being a professional architect working in New York City, how some of his expertise in code interpretation may be of assistance with historic preservation, that he is a second-homeowner with his wife, and he has mostly been in the village on weekends and holidays over the last five years.

a) Items we’re working on

b) Approximate timeline for the National Registry nomination

A brief overview was discussed of the expected 18-month timeline for the Heritage Working Group to gather community census in time for the National Registry nomination process anticipated in 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2024 nomination calendar. At that time, we need to be in place to submit the Philmont nomination to be reviewed by SHPO at the state level and by the National Registry at the federal level. We are waiting on hearing from Preserve New York on the grant proposal submitted by PBI to be in position to hire the preservationist specialist to write the nomination. The clock will start running as soon as the nomination process is underway. 2<sup>nd</sup> week in July is the date expected to hear on the Preserve New York award.

Karen Davala initiated a robust group discussion regarding the difference between a Historic District, and a **local** Preservation Commission, and how the difference may or may not impact a property owner, and if strings are attached to creating a historic district. All members participated in the lively conversation.

For the purpose of these Summary Notes and clarification– Sally has provided an overview:

- **a historic district** is decided by the local community and then nominated at the state and federal level to gain a listing on the State & National Registers of Historic Places in New York State. The listing of the district provides recognition and honor of the district, inclusion in local planning efforts, and can assist property owners to apply for the various preservation incentives. If the Village of Philmont Historic District is nominated, a property owner in the district is not automatically required to participate or instructed to renovate a property. There are no design specifications placed on the property by being located in the historic district, i.e., color of the façade. The property owner can choose to take advantage of preservation tax-credits to assist with certain building renovations with the direct assistance of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).
- **a preservation commission** is established at the **local level** (usually by the municipality) to act as a guiding commission or committee for the local preservation of properties. All decisions are made at the local level and **do not** receive oversight by any state or federal historic preservation agency.

The Philmont Village decided in a Village Board meeting held in November 2021 not to create a preservation commission.

Both the City of Hudson and the Town of Kinderhook in Columbia County have established local preservation commissions to oversee their historic districts. The Commission(s) review applications from property owners intending to conduct renovations. The Commission(s) can place restrictions, i.e., the color of the façade, and deny applications.

Other towns in Columbia County with historic districts, such as Town of Hillsdale and Austerlitz, do not have a local preservation commission. A property owner with a property within the boundary of the historic district contact the State Historic Preservation Office directly for assistance with the preservation tax-credits.

More information about historic districts can be found on the [project web page](#) and by viewing the webinar held in July 2021 for the [Village of Philmont Historic District](#).

Sally encouraged all members to view the webinar from last year to refresh on the presentation section provided by Jennifer Betsworth from Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (PARKS). It runs from 53.04.

### **3. Matt Kierstead - Heritage Consulting presentation – July 10<sup>th</sup>**

- a) Robina Ward *can participate* on July 10<sup>th</sup> for Matt's presentation.

Robina Ward will join us for the June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss the July 10<sup>th</sup> presentation.

- b) Other speakers and or community-based conversation for Matt's presentation.

Sally (PBI) reported on her conversation with Lynn Hotling, Town of Claverack Assessor, who recommended including discussion in the July 10<sup>th</sup> presentation to clarify the assessment of a property, and how a historic district has no automatic baring on a property assessment.

Karen Davala informed the group on how a property is assessed and how property taxes are established by the Village of Philmont annually corresponding to the village annual budget. She will take a look at the [webinar](#) from last year and report back to the group in the June meeting.

Karen has agreed to assist in the July 10<sup>th</sup> presentation to discuss property assessments, how improving a property may or may not increase the assessment, and her thoughts on creating a historic district in the village. Yea! for Karen!

### **4. Discussion - How is the Survey going?**

- a) Shawn to report about doing the dot survey PO event May 21<sup>st</sup>

The dot survey was rescheduled.

- b) Zoom share of the Survey chart - data collected to date
- c) Other ideas – we need to get as many surveys done as possible.
- d) Challenges – out-of-village property owners.

b)-d) will be added to the June meeting Agenda as ongoing group discussions.

Discussion was briefly held addressing rolling out a neighborhood centered campaign at the time of the nomination review (2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2024). Several good ideas beginning to emerge. Tobi provided insight on previous Library campaign(s) using lawn signs.

## **5. Update on Preserve New York grant application**

- a) We should expect to hear 2<sup>nd</sup> week in July.
- b) Update on renovations for 56 Main Street – aka Hopkins House

Sally (PBI) informed the group the property is included in the Summit Lake and its Watercourse BOA plan as a selected site. As such, PBI assembled the historic preservation tax-credit team for the property owner to receive assistance from PBI, SHPO, PARKS, Preservations Studios, and Jessie Ravage the preservation specialist who is currently writing the nomination for 56 Main Street (as a stand-alone building while the historic district is still in its nomination phase) in order for the property to receive preservation tax-credits to assist with the extensive renovations planned for the property.

## **6. Schedule next meeting**

Wednesday June 15<sup>th</sup>, 5.30pm-6.30pm

Adjournment