

Palmyra Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2013

Commissioners Present: Chris Daly, Vicky Daly (alternate), Ellie Drake, Jim Elliott.

Also Present: Mark Vande (consulting architect)

Commissioners Absent: Michael Haskins, Tim Kurek (alternate), Becky Remington.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ellie Drake at 7:09 pm.

Minutes: Jim Elliott made a motion to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Vicky Daly. The motion passed unanimously.

Ninth Period History Class: Peter Jemison was invited to speak on April 25, 2013. Ellie Drake submitted notices of his talk to the Democrat & Chronicle, the local Pennysaver, and on the Wayne County Life website. Although the notices were submitted, the D&C and Pennysaver did not print the information.

Leigh Jones is scheduled to speak at the May 16th PHPC meeting.

Betsy Lewis has agreed to speak at a future Ninth Period History Class about the Underground Railroad and the Western Presbyterian church. Ellie Drake suggested inviting Wayne County Retired Teachers at the fall meeting. Jim Elliott suggested asking Gene Bavis to speak on the architecture of Wayne County, next spring perhaps. Another future topic considered was the churches of Wayne County. Mark Vande stated that Bob Culver was recommended as a speaker on the W. Presbyterian Church. Vicky Daly said that another talk on tax credits might be given by Andrea Rebeck, perhaps as a free standing talk.

Vicky Daly recommended that we not schedule Ninth Period History Classes or Spotlights in June and July, and that we alternate between the presentations and spotlights. She suggested we update our schedule, and designate two people to do the spotlights – which will be on the May agenda.

Spotlights: Jim Elliott had no luck with the owner of the cobblestone house on Church Street. Chris Daly made contact with the Doyles who own one of the two sister houses at Jackson and Fayette Streets; Mrs. Doyle told her she would discuss it with her husband and call Chris back.

Letters: Chair Ellie Drake wrote letters to our Senators and Congressmen, and also to Julian Adams at SHPO regarding preservation funding. She also plans to write a letter to Gov. Cuomo to thank him for his pro-preservation legislation.

Quarterly Landmark Society networking meeting: Caitlin Mieves has asked someone from the Commission to talk about Palmyra's preservation endeavors.

Other Business: We received a thank you note from the owner of our first local landmark designation, Dr. Agnes Griffith. Dr. Griffith also said that she decided against having her home nominated as a National Register of Historic Places landmark, as it entails having photographs taken of the interior, and she is a private person.

Vicky Daly recently learned and shared with the Commission that SHPO must be informed of local designations, which must be added to the checklist.

Ellie Drake gave the Village Clerk a copy of Dr. Griffith's application.

Vicky Daly provided Local Landmarkers to the Commissioners, so that the newer members could have them.

Vicky Daly suggested that a source of info for spotlights could be the Cultural Resource Survey for the National Register of Historic Places historic district, and the Thomas Cook book Palmyra and Vicinity.

Vicky Daly shared with the group some information she found about Maryann Woodward, who was a former owner of what is now the Gellatly home. Maryann Woodward was a feminist and abolitionist who bought a female slave to emancipate her.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

To do list:

Ellie Drake: to contact webmaster; calendar

Chris Daly: to update checklist; follow up on Spotlight possibility (Doyles); other checklists

Vicky Daly: to contact Tammy Whitaker; contact Gene Bavis and Bob Culver; contact Andrea Rebeck; Gellatlys application.

Respectfully submitted by Christine Daly.

