

LANCASTER NEW YORK HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

MINUTES

from Wednesday December 15, 1999.

1. Attendance James Keysa, Joseph Giallanza, Ron Batt,
Jan Pecqueur, Jean Brunea, and William
Harnack
Absent - Michael Meyer

2. Hearings - none

Note - The meeting was held at the home of
Joseph and Elaine Giallanza at 2740
Bowen Road, Elma, New York.

3. Minutes: November 10, 1999 - Mr. Keysa did not have
them with him.

4. Treasurer's Report - No update

5. Old Business:

a). Broadway - Mr. Keysa provided copies of a letter
dated 11-30-99, which he received. The
letter was from Jeffrey Stribing as
Deputy Mayor to the New York State
Department of Transportation in which
Mr. Stribing asked the DOT to prepare
scaled designs for five options for
parking around the Municipal Building.
The commission approved of #1-3 in
concept, but rejected #4 and #5 as
both of these would remove the
podiatrists; building at 5429
Broadway.

The group also discussed the condition
of Broadway between Transit Road and
Union Road where work is currently in
progress. They were concerned over
the fact that work was progressing
slowly and little was done to make it
easier for property owners to be able
to maintain the area outside of the
sidewalks.

An article which appeared in the Buffalo News on 11/30/99 regarding the Preservation League of N.Y.S. was discussed. The League has designated Route 20 which it considers to be our state's Route 66, a scenic cultural landmark, to be endangered due to the fact that it has been losing its historic and identifying characteristics to sprawl, development and highway projects. Dr. Batt had spoken at the meeting in Albany last year with one of the members of the N.Y.S. panel which was considering the National Register properties about the fact that Route 20 is being considered for designation as an historic roadway by the state.

b. National Register

There has been no word from Albany about the 10 properties being placed on the National Register. This is expected soon.

c. Rite-Aid Drug Store

The company is in financial trouble and it is expected that it will not pursue its plans for re-developing the corner of Central and Pleasant Avenue West.

d. District - extension/grant

Mr. Keysa reported that Ray Kelly of O'Connell & Associates prepared the grant application which Mayor Cansdale signed requesting a grant from the N.Y.S. Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for a comprehensive survey of the properties within the Village of Lancaster. The total cost of the project would be \$20,000 with the CLG grant being \$12,000 and the village's matching share being \$8,000. The Village had to give up a grant for a coloring book for area elementary school students due to the fact that the Village did not pursue the project in a timely manner.

e. Presbyterian Church

The group concluded from the fact that they have not heard from the Church in the past six months that the project came in over budget and that the project had to be scaled back.

f. District property owners - Notices

After the holidays, Bill Harnack will update the notice to the property owners with the district so that they are kept aware among other things, of the fact that they must have approval to make changes to the exteriors of their buildings.

6. New Business

- a). Mr. Keysa provided a copy of an article from the Buffalo News (11/17/99) indicating that the Town of Amherst was going to begin granting tax breaks to property owners whose homes or buildings were designated as local landmarks. The plan calls for gradually taxing improvements made to the exterior of properties.

Mr. Keysa obtained a copy of the new law from the Town of Amherst. The exemptions would be for 100% for the first 5 years and then would be phased-in at 20% per year until the tenth year. The board did not wish to take any action at this time with reference to the Village of Lancaster doing something similar. They decided it was something that could be reviewed later when the Town of Amherst might be able to provide information as to how the project was working.

7. Correspondence/articles

(These were distributed with the topics above)

8. Upcoming meetings were set for Wednesday January 5, 2000 and Wednesday February 2, 2000. Joe Giallanza announced that he will be unable to attend any meetings in February and March.

Joseph Giallanza and Ronald Batt both praised Mr. Keysa for his work with the historic district. The meeting adjourned for holiday party with refreshments provided by the Giallanzas.