

**LANCASTER, NEW YORK
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
Minutes of February 12th, 2003**

Attendance:

James Keysa
Ronald Batt
Jean Brunea
William Harnack
Michael Meyer
Jan Pecqueur
Sandy Larkin

Excused:

Joe Giallanza

Hearings:

There were no hearings scheduled for this meeting.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of a number of previous meetings were distributed and read.

- Minutes of the December 11th, 2002 meeting: motion to accept by Jan Pecqueur; seconded by Mike Meyer; minutes were approved.
- Minutes of the December 17th, 2002 meeting: it was noted that Jean Brunea should be removed from the list of those excused; motion to accept was made by Mike Meyer; seconded by Jan Pecqueur; minutes were approved.
- Minutes of the December 30th, 2002 meeting: it was noted that Bill Harnack should be added to the attendees list; motion to accept was made by Jan Pecqueur; seconded by Jean Brunea; minutes were approved.
- Minutes of January 8th, 2003: motion to accept was made by Mike Meyer; seconded by Jan Pecqueur.

A copy of the minutes for the February 4th, 2003 meeting with the Chamber of Commerce and the DOT regarding the Broadway project was also handed out to all attendees. During this meeting, which was attended by Jim Keysa, Dick Swain from the DOT as well as a representative from the state went through some of the things that will be going on when construction resumes.

Treasurer's Report:

We will have to submit expenses. If you have any bills, please mail a copy to Jim Keysa.

STATUS REPORTS:

Broadway:

Construction will start this month with the storm sewers on the south side of Broadway. They will pull the poles where they have double poles or they are in the way, and then will start doing storm sewers. They intend to have two-way traffic on Broadway. It will be on the south side of the street while they work on reconstructing the north side of the street. Work will begin as of the end of March (storm sewers between the end of February and March. They will start at the West of the street near Aurora St. and work their way east. There will always be two-way traffic while this is being done. They will then switch to do the south side of the street (end of May through the end of July). The project should be complete by the end of July. They expect to be out after the first week in August (they will be completing odds and ends during that week). This will definitely complete the project ahead of schedule (November) and they will then receive their incentive.

Ron Batt asked if any special preparation is needed for those individuals who live on Broadway, and Jim Keysa indicated that there was not anything that we are aware of at this time.

Central Avenue -- Bids will be accepted in March. Construction is scheduled for June with a completion date of September.

The question was brought up as to whether or not the town was scheduled to contribute to this (Jean Brunea). It was noted that the town was responsible for Plumb Bottom Creek Bridge and the Plaza in front of the Town Hall. As of the meeting which was held on February 4th, they are also expected to contribute to this project.

Bill Harnack questioned if we are now clear on the details of the stone archway on the Plumb Bottom Creek Bridge. At this point it is understood that the archway will be refurbished, cleaned, fixed, and made ready for the sidewalk; two new buttresses will be installed to form the base for the sidewalk bridge. Conduits for lights will be put in under the sidewalk bridge. The stone arch itself will remain as is. The cement buttresses will be done in the stamped concrete in the Sedona pattern we chose.

As far as activities this year in the village, they hope to have a project finale in August. They will probably put some activities together to take place toward Labor Day.

The municipal parking lot will not be done until September.

The Donlan house at the southwest corner of Broadway and Legion Parkway will not be torn down for approximately 90 days. When it is removed it will enable the DOT to move the Legion Parkway intersection with Broadway to the west of it's present location. This should create a safer intersection.

Notice to Property Owners:

Bill Harnack distributed copies of the proposed letter to Property Owners. (This letter would be sent to Board members as well.) It was suggested that one particular paragraph of this letter be rewritten in order to give a more positive note to it, and Bill agreed to do this.

In addition to the cover letter, the mailing will include a petition form, and a map to define to recipients the area determined to be the "Historic District".

The letter will be produced on the Lancaster Historic Commission stationery. Sandy Larkin will contact Laura Lublin to obtain the necessary stationery.

Presbyterian Church:

They are doing work to complete the inside of the building. Some members of the board asked if a suggestion could possibly be made to the Church to somehow darken the windows, which detract from the historic old church especially when the lights are on.

Memories Restaurant:

This piece of property has become an eyesore, and it was suggested that we notify Jeff Simme that he should take some type of action on this piece of property. We could possibly notify them that it is currently in violation of the certificate of appropriateness which we issued in June of 2002 (Jan Pecqueur had a copy of the certificate which she read to the board.) It was noted that carefully prepared landscaping was included in the basis of our approval. Although other work was done immediately, the landscaping was not done at all, and action needs to be taken as soon as possible.

Property Forms:

In December, we were gathering information on the buildings in the historic district that needed property forms completed. We need to go back and prepare the property forms.

It was agreed that we should have another meeting regarding this item, and it has tentatively been scheduled for March 5th at Jan Peuqueur's house, 7:30 p.m..

NEW BUSINESS:

- A special meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, February 19th, at Richard Young's business in the former Murphy building. He is looking for ideas. All of the Historic Commission members are invited, and Jan Peuqueur, Ron Batt, Bill Harnack, and Jim Keysa indicated that they would be in attendance.
- Ron Batt proposed we look into designing some sort of Commemorative piece to mark completion of the current Broadway project. One possibility would be a Bronze Commemorative Medal, possibly set in a clear plastic, which could be used as a paper weight. This is an item which could be kept for a very long time – we could even consider making them available for sale to interested residents. Jim Keysa suggested that Ron contact a business by the name of Fantasia on Iroquois Avenue who can help with items of this nature. It was noted that when the town of Cheektowaga celebrated their bicentennial they struck a medal commemorating the event, which was then used in subsequent years as an award for individuals who performed heroic acts in the town.

Naomi
Gruntzsch
- Iroquois
Place
Art Rago -
Pinetree
Aurora

We had a request for information from the Episcopal Church regarding the possibility of obtaining a grant for repair of brick on the building, and possibly providing a handicapped entrance on the west side of the building. Jim Keysa told them to fax or e-mail him but as of today's date he has not received this information. Regarding the grant for religious property, they should contact the Village Clerk to see if they can help him out with this. (It appears they are actually looking for grant writing help.)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Future Meetings:

February 19th: Meeting at Richard Youngs Property.

March 5th: Meeting for Property Forms

March 12th: Regularly scheduled Board Meeting for March, 2003