

LANCASTER, NEW YORK  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
Minutes of September 10, 2003

**Attendance:**

James Keysa  
Ronald Batt  
Jean Brunea  
Jan Pecqueur  
William Harnack  
Ann Karb

**Excused:**

Michael Meyer  
Joseph Giallanza

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Broadway/Central Avenue Status:**

The work on Broadway is nearing completion and the municipal parking lot is almost finished. The major remaining area involves the demolition of the Donlon house where asbestos abatement has been a problem. On Central Avenue, the delivery of the prefabricated Con-Span bridge over Plumb Bottom Creek is still being awaited. Trees are currently being planted on Central Avenue and the plaza in front of Town Hall is almost completed. It was noted that the sense of safety when parking in that area is much improved and traffic speed has been slowed, which was an ultimate safety goal.

**Notices to Property Owners:**

It was agreed that the committee will meet at James Keysa's office at 7:30 p.m. on October 19, 2003, to complete these notices.

**Property Forms:**

A committee meeting was scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on September 23, 2003, at Joseph Giallanza's office to work on property forms.

**Heritage Trees:**

James Keysa agreed to write a letter to the Village Board, enclosing a copy of the Menlo Park, California, Heritage Trees Code and requesting that a similar ordinance be enacted for Lancaster. Types of trees would be changed; for example, redwood could be changed to sugar maple which is native to New York. Lancaster has a number of historically significant trees, but many have already been destroyed simply because the homeowners found them inconvenient.

**Signs:**

It was stated by James Keysa that the sign ordinance was approved as part of the Master Plan adopted by the Village several years ago and that this can be relied upon. We will need to follow up on this because codified information should be available to people when they make inquiries. Information extracted from the Department of Interior guidelines should also be included to help people better understand the requirements.

**Review of Prior Hearings:**

Jeff Simme will be requested to check on the status of 5631 Broadway which has a badly deteriorating porch, as well as the former Memory's Restaurant property and the Hill house at 5522 Broadway.

**Book Project:**

Ron Batt reported that he went to see Karl Kipp who has eleven completed drawings of Lancaster sites. A total of 26 pictures would be required for the book. Ron recommended that we consider having the printing done by Impressive Printing on Aero Drive. He is acquainted with the owner's son and feels they would do a high quality job and they also might be able to assist with ideas on funding. With regard to funding, it was proposed that local businesses might be willing to support this project with contributions.

**East Aurora:**

James Keysa attempted to contact Don Dayer from the East Aurora Historical Society concerning scheduling a tour of some of their historical buildings, possibly followed by lunch or dinner in East Aurora, but so far has been unsuccessful in reaching him. He mentioned that this might also be helpful in fulfilling the State educational requirement concerning observing the operations of another historic area. The dates of October 11 or 18 were proposed for this trip.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

(A) The house next to Fireside Restaurant on Central Avenue is scheduled to be demolished. The building dates from the 1860s and has been neglected for some time. The Fire Department plans to have a smoke-out in the building and then it will be razed. This building is out of our jurisdiction so there was nothing we could have done to preserve it.

(B) There was a brief discussion on some properties which should be considered for restoration excellence awards during Preservation Week in 2004. Among those mentioned were 5600 Broadway, 27 Erie Street, 30 School Street, and the E.B. Green-designed Pryzbyl building on Broadway.

**CORRESPONDENCE/ARTICLES:**

Jean Brunea provided an article concerning grants to historic churches. The Federal government is now allowing grants to churches as long as they are historic buildings. A recent grant of \$317,000 was awarded Old North Church in Boston.

Jan Pecqueur referred to a newspaper article on the proposed north/south route on Cemetery Road from Broadway to the Thruway. It was the opinion of the committee that a completely new road extending a further distance would be a better option; however the Cemetery Road route is a part of the approved Master Plan.

**Future Meetings:**

The next meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2003.

Meeting adjourned.