

# *Town of Canandaigua*

5440 Routes 5 & 20 West  
Canandaigua, New York 14424

## **MINUTES**

### **CITIZENS' IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

**TUESDAY, JULY 17, 2018, 9:00 A.M.**

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**Committee Members Present:** Doug Finch  
Sarah Reynolds  
Gary Davis  
Oksana Fuller  
Ray Henry

**Guests Present:** Saralinda Hooker, Cultural & Historical Preservation Team

**Members Absent:** Kevin Reynolds, Pat Venezia, Kelly LaVoie, Joyce Marthaller

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- **CALL TO ORDER**  
The meeting commenced at 9:10 am.
- **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**  
None at this time.
- **REPORT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE**  
None at this time.
- **REFERRALS**  
None at this time.
- **OLD BUSINESS**  
None at this time.
- **NEW BUSINESS**

Doug Finch opened the meeting and gave the floor to Saralinda Hooker and Ray Henry. Ray distributed a list of Town properties (residences) that were built 100 or more years ago. He said there are several

properties he is still researching, so the list is not yet complete. The list is in alphabetical (street name) and numerical (house number) order. Doug asked how this relates to the study (grant) and if they will be doing something similar. Saralinda said it is a good starting point and background for the project. The other resources they'll be looking at when they develop their background information will be the records in the Town Historian's office, the maps in the Historical Society, and the County Archives. In many cases, they will look directly at the assessor's information.

Ray said he believes the minimum age of the properties will be extended from 100 (+) to 150 (+) years.

Saralinda said that when looking at the maps, sometimes they are correct, and sometimes they are a little bit off. In many cases, the information was provided solely by the homeowner. Ray said if he found a difference in information listed by Carolyn and that listed by the assessor, he goes with the information provided by the assessor.

Doug said he is assuming that the people will come in and verify the list. Saralinda said they will do something completely different. They started meeting in February and right around that same time learned about this grant possibility through the Preservation League. The grant will pay for most of the costs of the historic resource surveys. There are several surveys that can be conducted, and they are using the reconnaissance level.

Phase I involves looking at the history of the Town and developing an overview of our content statement, which is a summary of everything that has been going on in the Town since the initial settlement – from the starting point. It will be looking at it from the point of view of where the significant buildings are going to be, what the considerations are, and identifying which ones seem most historically significant.

Phase II will take the background information and look at every building in the Town over 50 years old and identify which ones are most closely related overall. The final product will be a report that contains:

- 1) the history of the narrative and focusing on up to 50 years ago, and
- 2) a list of the buildings that are significant within these various building types. There is a map associated with these. There should also be photos of these buildings. The report will be in chart form and may contain one or two properties per page, listing key information such as construction date, name of family, and brief description, including why it is significant. The people conducting the survey will not be going onto anybody's property. The information will be gathered from public records, the street, and other sources. The work Ray has been doing will be a big step forward to the consultants when they get started.

The Preservation League has a maximum grant of \$10,000, and that will require at least a 20% match. The Town of Canandaigua received several proposals from qualified consultants, which were in the \$20,000 - \$25,000 range. With a \$10,000 maximum, they suggested splitting it into two parts. Phase I will be approximately \$11,500. A similar grant will be applied for next year for Phase II. The Preservation League made a site visit, and they seemed to like the project. It is projected that Phase I could take 6 – 9 months. They hope to apply in March, get a positive answer in July or August, and get started on the project around September.

There have been some suggestions that maybe the hamlet of Cheshire could be identified as a historic district. They will be taking a look at that. Building sites that are likely to emerge are farmsteads, lakefront homes, cottages, and camps, institutional buildings, cemeteries, and schoolhouses. Ray said the Pump House would also be included.

Saralinda said the goal of the project is to have a document that is done independently by qualified professionals that can be relied upon, so that when someone raises the question, in the context of a development proposal, *Is a historic resource being affected here?*, we can direct them to it. This is going to be a document that compares these properties side by side. The criteria combines age, condition (how intact it is), and the reason why it represents a significant group.

Oksana Fuller asked about the old Johnson farmhouse that is now the Artisan. Saralinda said she thinks that will be definitely identified as a national register-eligible property because of its age and the fact that it is relatively intact.

Doug said he believes the challenge will be in Phase II, where they get into the evaluation of the conditions. Saralinda said that won't be the case, as they only look at whether a property has historic significance. They only look at the condition of a property to the extent that if it is obvious it is so old and run down, the resource is not likely to last much longer. At that point, they would take note of it. She said that the question of the Johnson house brings up another related matter, which is whether the Committee is interested in suggesting protection for historic properties that might be endangered. That came up in the context of the Committee when the Case House was demolished. Saralinda said the Johnson House is another one where that could happen, although she knew it was supposed to be renovated as part of that project.

Doug said that while that may be what had been discussed, it never received approval. The actual condition for approval stated that any future consideration for renovation of the Johnson Homestead would be an independent matter. He said that there appears to be a disconnect in communication in terms of the perception of what people are intending vs. what is actually being approved and not being approved.

Ray Henry said he had never received any notification of the plan to demolish the Casey House; he learned about it after it was gone.

Saralinda brought up the Bigham property at the top of the hill by Hawley Rd., which is for sale, and the possibility of it being demolished after it sells. She said she would like to see an organized documentation effort put in place whereby before a significant property gets demolished, either the Committee or the Town would be responsible for taking photographs, to ensure they have a record. Oksana asked if there had been a sign marked "Property Under Review". Doug said a sign had been there for months. He said he was surprised and a little confused, because there actually is a policy in place that requires, before a demolition permit is issued, that the project be referred to the Town Historian. A possible outcome of this work being done through the grant is taking the identified list and memorializing this (once the study is complete) and then putting a section in code specifically referring

it to a particular entity, such as the ECB or another. Doug said he will talk to the Development Office about the matter of the Casey House not having been referred to the ECB. John Casey had gone through all the proper channels in a timely fashion. Notices were sent out. It's a big process. He said he will look into that and talk to the Development office about it. Ray said that perhaps he had missed it, due to the fact that the name had been changed to Casey or if it was during the time of his recovery from a medical condition. Doug said, in any case, it is an opportunity for improvement and that he would like to see them get to the point with the ECB could, perhaps, provide some of those comments.

Saralinda said they had a table at the Open House with some historic maps of the Town (from 1852 – present) up on the wall, which gave residents a nice opportunity to see their homes and the homes of their neighbors displayed. She said they have some good documents now that can be displayed in the Historian's office and/or the Town Hall.

Doug asked if there was any way some of the images could be electronically digitalized and added to the Town Historian's page on the Town website, as well as to social media. He would like to have some little videos posted on Facebook live. He asked Saralinda if she thought the Team and Committee would consider doing something like that. Saralinda said they do have all the maps electronically and the files are large, so it would take someone with the proper skills to be able to reduce them and make them loadable and able to be viewed clearly.

Sarah Reynolds said they were somewhat successful in doing that with the zoning map. She told Saralinda that if she can get them to her, she can see if she can shrink them, and depending on the size, they may be able to upload them, as is, to the website. Saralinda said she will bring them over in a thumb drive. They have been discussing submitting maps and other information to the Town Newsletter on a quarterly basis and that they have been waiting until they hear about the grant. Ray said he has given one to Sarah but never got a reply from the people who live at the William Gorham House – used to be Dr. Beckler's house. He has an article written and has been waiting for additional information that he doesn't think will prove true about Eloise Wilkins having lived there. He said it would be worth noting, but he has been hitting dead ends.

Doug told Saralinda that he knows the Team is focused on the work associated with the inventory. He mentioned that some of the other action items from the goals in the Comprehensive Plan also references helping to tell the Town's story, relating to the history of the town, for instance, through trails or markers. He and Samantha Pierce are working very closely with the Parks Department in trying to make improvements in the parks and there is some money available in this year's budget. Some of it is allocated for Miller Park, but there is some that can also be applied to other areas in need. The City has done something in Baker Park called 'The Storywalk'. There are little stands all along the trail that tell a story. The City is going in every 30 days and putting new stories in place. Doug said there's no reason why the Town couldn't do the same thing, telling its story. He would really like for that to happen. Saralinda said the Committee is very willing to do that. They had invited Dennis Brewer to one of their meetings and shared ideas with him about the trails. She suggested history-oriented geocaching as another fun activity.

Saralinda said another possible project they have been considering has to do with the AG Committee and would involve nominating one or more of the farms in Town as centennial or bicentennial farms, which is a statewide program that recognizes farms that have been in the same family for 100 or 200 years. If the AG Committee could identify someone who would really like to do that, the Preservation Team would be happy to help. Doug agreed it was a good idea and said the Town has five and six-generation farms that can be approached to see if they would be interested.

Doug talked about some changes that have been made in Parks and Recreation Department, namely that some of the maintenance and recreational programs have been separated. Dennis Brewer is renewing his focus on recreational programs and has been working on the day camp operations. They have some fantastic programs they would like to expand.

Troy Bennett is the Parks Maintenance Assistant. Doug's office is working closely with Troy. If the Historical Team feels there is certain information they should have, that process could go forward without necessarily having to go through the Parks and Rec Committee. There is a Parks and Rec Master Plan now that details a lot of the action steps. Doug said some help is needed with some of the planning, i.e., recreation programs and events. The Parks and Rec Committee is very receptive to that and would like to see some improvements related to trails the telling of more historical significant stories. Saralinda said a good place to start would be with interpretive signs in the parks. Doug said the trail that is located on Town property on the other side of the creek is very close to where the Indian Burial Grounds were, and he would like to see a sign along the trail that points to that area. Ray said permission is required. Doug said that since the Town already owns the property down to the creek, it should not be an issue. He asked if the sign could be on the Town's property, even though the Grounds are not the Town's property. Saralinda pointed out that with archaeological sites, particularly where there are burial grounds, they archaeological community is very cautious with public identification, because of the possibility of people digging things up.

Doug said that along the section of trail they call the Peanut Line, perhaps there could be a nice marker out front that would tell the story of the old Peanut Line Railway, along with a picture of the locomotive. Ray and Saralinda said there already is a sign by the creek. Doug suggested the sign be moved to the front, at the beginning of the road, where it would be more visible, and everyone was in agreement.

Saralinda said the Cultural & Historical Preservation Team would like to change its name to the Local History Committee or Team. Sarah Reynolds said that it would probably need to be 'Team', as 'Committee' would most likely require the approval of the Town Board. The new name, 'Local History Team' was agreed upon.

Sarah said that site design standards are finally going to go before the Board. All the groups and committees have had their say, and everyone is happy with the way things are. The Public Hearing will be set at the August meeting for September adoption. The Open Space Public Hearing was held July 16th, and they will have that at the August meeting.

Oksana asked if there was anything new at the Town Board meeting at the previous night's meeting. Doug said the Town Board approved the resolution relating to TDR. They accepted the CIC's recommendations. They said we cannot do that, but we could have a very similar section of code specifically geared toward TDRs with the same basic intent. The concern with the overlapping of TDRs with Incentive Zoning, essentially, is that it could give the impression that the Town Board is selling variances. They would like to separate those, from a legal aspect. It's a lengthy process, so everything needs to be taken one step at a time. Doug said if the CIC needs anything for 2019 in terms of budgeting, the process of working on the 2019 budget has begun, so the sooner requests associated with that are made known, the better. Sarah said there was one from the historic group. Doug said they need to have a follow-up conversation with Ed Varno about that.

Doug asked if there were any other Resolutions with the CIC. There were none recalled.

Oksana said final plans were made at the Events Meeting for the Ontario County Fair on Thursday, July 26<sup>th</sup>. They will be there from 2:00 pm – 7:00 pm. She said she has some final work to arrange with Troy Bennett and Jim Fletcher. They will need the banner and pole. They are going to have paper airplanes (kits). Dennis Brewer will be providing those. They're thinking of having a contest, i.e., how far the airplanes can go. An ice cream cone will be the prize, most likely with the winner receiving a voucher.

Oksana said there is a great idea for next year (Linda's idea). Design plans are already underway for the July 4, 2019 parade float. Jim Fletcher said they have the tractor trailer they can use.

Oksana said the float's theme will be 'Summer on the Lake' and will have water skiers, inner tubes, and people sitting on lawn chairs. She asked who they need to speak to at the City. Doug said that the City is in the process now of hiring a new person, as Dan Mackee is no longer there.

Doug said that Mayor Ellen Polimeni and City Manager John Goodwin were surprised that the Town and City were not lined up together at the parade, as had been intended. The City Council and the Town Board will be in next year's parade as a joint entity - ONE CANANDAIGUA.

There was a brief discussion about where to store the boat float. Jim Fletcher suggested King Hall, which has a lower level garage or basement, but he didn't know what was presently placed there. Doug asked if the boat could be stored in the salt barn. After a brief discussion, it was decided that if the boat float could be put up on some blocks and covered with a tarp, it should have adequate protection. Oksana said she will talk to Troy about it. Doug said they have a brand new airport manager, and they can always look at the possibility of moving things there, if more space is needed.

Oksana brought up the Halloween event scheduled for Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, at Onanda Park. She said they plan to do a lot of advertising. Bristol Mountain will be coming with their Mobile Ropes Course. Help will be needed at the cabins, which will all be decorated. People are also needed (in fun and scary costume attire) to hand out candy at the cabins to the children. Doug asked if both the City and Cheshire fire departments could be there (with each bringing a truck). City Fire Chief, Frank Magnera, who is a

Town resident, had told Doug he is interested in participating. Oksana said they invited the City Fire Department the first year they were at the fair. Sarah asked if Oksana knew if the AG Committee would be at the fair. Oksana said she had talked to Mark Stryker, but he did not know what had been decided. Sarah said she sent an email to all the members and let them know if they would like to take stuff from last year, she will make it available, but she is not able to come. Oksana said she invited Amy Jones from BOCES, and she is bringing her exhibit. Doug said the new AG teacher from Marcus Whitman, is very interested, and he would like to have her come and talk it over with the AG Committee.

Oksana said the Ordinance Committee is in need of more members. Gary said someone was added the night before.

➤ **MEMBERS' REPORTS**

None at this time.

**UPCOMING MEETING TOPICS**

2019 Budget - Requests

➤ **ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING**

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:20 AM.

Next meeting scheduled for August 7, 2018.