

January 31, 2019

Schultzville, NY

A public hearing the proposed landmark designation for the Creek Meeting House was held on this day in the Town Hall. Present were Supervisor Oberly, Councilmen Eliot Werner, Michael Whitton, Nancy Cunningham and Town Clerk Carol-Jean Mackin. There were ten people in the audience. Councilman Dean Michael arrived at 7:05 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

At 7:02 PM, Supervisor Oberly called the public hearing to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Town Clerk read the public hearing notice aloud.

At this time, Supervisor Oberly explained the process and asked for comments from the audience about the landmark designation for the Creek Meeting House.

Cynthia Koch – Pres CHS. Thanked the Board for allowing the petition for the Creek Meeting House to be the first to be a designated landmark in Town. The Historical Society owns the building and the Society supports this effort. The Historical Society has a private landmark status program already and there are 42 properties in Town that hold an honorary historical label; hopes to move some of those properties into this landmark status with the help and support of their owners. Stated that the Creek Meeting House building's current status on the state and federal historic register gives some protection. This local level designation gives more protections. The Comprehensive Plan gives strong reasons to accept this designation as the Comprehensive Plan says we desire to retain the rural character, promotes small hamlet development and historic structures. Feels the historic designation is a way to implement that goal. She gave ten reasons why to follow through with this petition for Landmark Designation, including economic revitalization, heritage tourism, escalation of property values, provides skilled jobs, and is kinder to the environment as we preserve vs. tear down properties. The Town approved other legislation to protect the town, citing Scenic Road Law, and hamlet protections in the zoning law, as examples. There are two professional surveys of historic structures one a survey done by the county that identified 163 buildings as significant. In 2015, a CHS and Town survey documented historically significant properties up to 1965, which is the Federal recognized end point for historical properties; 231 properties in Town have been deemed historically significant. 75% of these buildings are intact or minimally altered citing the important historic character of the Town. Urges protection of historic character with this petition and asks the Board to implement the law that has been on the books for years.

Samantha Karchmar – moved here ten years ago with her parents, influenced by growing up here. Works at Schultzville Store where she meets people drawn here by its history; feels it's important to preserve this history.

Merida Wells – echoed previous thoughts, asks who would oppose this?

Rich Morse – driving from Rhinebeck to Hyde Park you can see how well Rhinebeck preserved their history as opposed to Hyde Park. Wants Clinton to preserve what we have. Zoning is important and is in favor of this designation.

Russ Tompkins – no problem designating the Historical Society ‘s building as a landmark status. He disagrees with much of the Comprehensive Plan and believes it is just a lot of feel good ideas. Upset by Cynthia’s letter in the last paragraph, where she states she plans to submit to the Town Board petitions for other properties to follow for this landmark status. He does not want to be told what to do on his property. The property owner should be in agreement with the designation and others should not be able to submit petitions for others’ properties.

Paul Thomas – In favor of the petition. Planning Board member, Landmarks Committee member; this designation will help with site plans and demo permits that may involve historic properties, where there is little guidance in the Zoning Law right now. Idea is to work with landowners for these designations, hope people will want to participate willingly, we will not force the issue.

William Holman – no legal basis to designate a landmark status without the owner’s permission and asked the Town Board to confirm. Dean Michael said the zoning law says the Town Board does have the authority to designate a landmark status on its own, which can be discussed further at a different time.

Joyce Morse – agrees with the petition, the Creek Meeting House is one of the most beautiful structures in Town, and should be protected and preserved. Clinton Corners is becoming a destination with the revitalization of the buildings there and should be protected and preserved. Agrees with Cynthia.

There being no further comments, MM Supervisor Oberly, 2nd Councilman Michael to close the public hearing. All aye. Motion carried. This item will be voted on at the February 12, 2019 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:25 PM, MM Supervisor Oberly, 2nd Councilman Michael to adjourn the public hearing. All aye. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol-Jean Mackin,
Town Clerk