

PRESENT Loretta Frankovitch, Pete Coppins, Rita Geiben, David Giusiana, Jim Fittante, Deputy Clerk Donna Vazquez, Clerk Shannon Fundis, Historian Russ Piper

EXCUSED Christine O’Hara

CALL TO ORDER Loretta Frankovitch called the Historical Preservation Commission meeting to order at 6:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES A motion was made by David Giusiana seconded by Pete Coppins and passed unanimously to approve the May 8, 2023 minutes as submitted.

OLD BUSINESS **415 Ridge St. – Sign Application**
Philip Viverito proposed a blue and white ground sign with the permanent name of Our Place @ 415. There will be a space below for interchangeable letters for upcoming events.

A motion was made by Rita Geiben seconded by Jim Fittante to approve the sign at 415 Ridge St. as submitted with the recommendation to make the sign smaller.

Deputy Clerk Vazquez polled the board and the motion passed with four yes votes as follows:

Geiben - YES Coppins - YES Fittante - YES Frankovitch – YES
Giusiana abstained.

List of Historical Village Properties - Update
Rita Geiben stated she has the information on the Original Lower Landing Burial Mound. I have completed 4th St. and Seneca St. I am meeting with the family members at the end of the month for 5th St. I am still working on Center St. and Niagara St.

65 Center St. - 125 S 1st St. – 115 S Water St. – Retaining Wall
Frankovitch stated that there was no submission prior to the meeting but we will listen to what you have to say.

Owner John Kinney showed a photo of a proposed 4ft concrete wall with a 3ft fence on top of it. Kinney questioned why he would have to come before HPC because he understands in the code that a fence would fall under a minor action which would not be subjected for HPC approval.

Frankovitch disagreed with Kinney’s interpretation of the code. We asked you to soften the wall as the architectural review board on how it relates to the surrounding properties and the historic village. I will be happy to talk to Law Counsel Leone on the interpretation of the code but nothing was submitted in advance.

Clerk Fundis noted there is a ten day deadline to have all documentation into the Clerk’s office for review before each meeting.

A motion was made by Frankovitch seconded by Geiben and passed unanimously to table the proposed wall at 65 Center St. for further review.

A motion was made by Frankovitch seconded by Geiben and passed unanimously to table the proposed wall at 125 S 1st St. for further review.

A motion was made by Frankovitch seconded by Geiben and passed unanimously to table the proposed wall at 115 S Water St. for further review.

NEW BUSINESS **900 Center St. (Lower) - Sue’s Frame of Mind – Sign Application**
Owner Sue Sullivan stated she is reusing her old sign and would like it to be centered above the entryway.

A motion was by Giusiana seconded by Fittante and passed unanimously to recommend to the Planning Board to approve the sign centered over the doorway for aesthetic purposes.

400 Plain St. - Replace Roof - Application for Certificate of Appropriateness 2023-07
A motion was made by Giusiana seconded by Coppins and passed unanimously to approve the replacement roof as presented.

Owner Claudia Marasco asked if there is going to be any tax incentives for owners of historic properties.

Mayor Welch stated she is currently working with the Town of Lewiston tax assessor to initiate a tax incentive.

155 S 5th St. – Repaint Shutters Light Gray-Application for Certificate of Appropriateness 2023-08

Deputy Clerk Vazquez said the owners are still in Texas but submitted the Revere Pewter color and a picture of a white house with the color shutter on it.

Frankovitch stated this light color is against the standards for window treatments and in a historical neighborhood. The standard is a darker color, not necessarily black.

Giusiana suggested sanding the shutters down to find the original color. If they can show the original color is similar to the light gray then this will supersede our board.

Geiben said she would like to meet with the owner and take her to meet Tom Collister, the curator at Lewiston Museum.

A motion was made by Geiben seconded by Coppins and passed unanimously to table the Application for Certificate of Appropriateness 2023-08 until next month.

OTHER

Project Completion Photos

Frankovitch said she had recently attended the New York State Historic Preservation Commission and a Round Table meeting. We are always wondering if projects are completed so if we add project completion photos to the application where once your project is complete you are required to submit photos to round out that application. This seems to be best practice throughout New York State and nationwide. We would continue to leave the project on the agenda, each month, until we receive the photos.

Frankovitch would like to recommend this to the Planning Board for discussion.

Upcoming Roundtables

Frankovitch stated there are two more Roundtables coming up this year. The one in July is Best Practices for Public Hearings which is not just for HPC it can be for Planning, as well. The one in September is for Public Education and Outreach at the Carnegie Library downtown.

Preservation Day

Frankovitch said Preservation Day is August 5, 2023 from 10am to 3pm at Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village. We have been asked to set up a table and I would like to coordinate with the museum to have a display of what we have going on in Lewiston.

Annual Report

Deputy Clerk Vazquez stated she will check on the status of the report and Geiben said she will work on it.

Archaeological Survey

Frankovitch gave the official report that designates the Lower Landing Archaeological District to Deputy Clerk Vazquez and asked to scan it to the HPC board and then put in the historic files.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Geiben seconded by Coppin and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:39pm.

