

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND PARKS COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF MONTEBELLO WAS HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2019 AT THE VILLAGE HALL. THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:40 P.M. FOLLOWED BY THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Present:	Lisa Levin	Co-Chairperson
	Maureen Danzig	Member
	Bill Ellsworth	Member
	Dorice Madronero	Member
	Matt Moetzing	Member
	Tony Piazza	Member
	Josh Goldstein	Ad Hoc
	Robert J. Israel	Member
	Howard Hochberg	Member
	Warren Berbit	Village Attorney

Absent:	Amy Rapoport	Co-Chairperson
	Rosemary Mocio	Member
	Craig Long	Village Historian/HPPC Advisor

### **Old Business:**

Co-chair Levin began with approval of minutes from the May 2019 meeting. Motion made to approve May 2019 minutes by Member Ellsworth and seconded by Member Moetzing. Motion carried. The June 2019 meeting minutes were approved pending corrections discussed. Motion to approve by Member Piazza, seconded by Member Madronero. Motion carried.

Discussion moved to the recent arrest in KGPP after some sort of altercation, however, no one knew of any specific information.

Co-chair Levin proceeded with co-chair Rapoport's updates from the June 2019 meeting. Co-chair Rapoport was contacted by Thomas Fantry's (Eagle Scout project) mother who has asked the Village to purchase the signs with the money that Thomas raises so that he can save the tax and put all funds toward his project. Co-chair Rapoport directed her to contact Joan Will directly for tax forms. Thomas has submitted his paperwork to the scouts for the fundraising activities and is moving ahead with his project. He will submit his drawings to the HPPC for approval and the HPPC will submit them to the Village Board so that they are aware of everything that is happening.

Co-chair Rapoport also confirmed that she contacted the Department of Health regarding stocking the ponds in KGPP. Montebello is now on the list to receive stock for next year. Stocking begins in April and will notify her when it is scheduled.

Co-chair Rapoport has spoken with Farrah Watkins about Pilates in the Park. All members agreed that Pilates should be held in the Park and not at the Pilates studio. Member Danzig indicated that she would take care of ordering an "Activities in the Park" sign that can be used for a variety of applications.

Member Madronero revisited the idea of installing signs to identify Montebello's historic and scenic roads, perhaps applying for a grant to fund the signs to increase public awareness of these roads. She suggested adding this signage to the W3R signs currently in discussion, which would fortify that there is significant history in Montebello. Members agreed that it would be a good idea but that we'd have to have Mr. Long

discuss with Skip Vezetti to add to the application for W3R installations. All members agreed that signs should be facing in both directions on each historic road. Based on Mr. Long's discussion about placement with County, members will decide how many signs would be best.

Co-chair Levin moved on to inform the members that the HPPC has been denied its request for a CLG grant to perform a Scenic and Historic Roads study. Although NYSHPO praised the Village for getting all the Village information up to date that had been deficient in the past, we were informed that our application didn't have enough information to justify the funding. The NYSHPO did not elaborate as to what information we were missing. Co-chair Levin stated that she has reached out to Linda Mackey for clarification, however, had not heard back from her to date.

Co-chair Levin updated members on the status of the Blind Players Club (103 Montebello Road), informing everyone that the house and the Camp Montebello building (101 Montebello Road) have different owners and only the Blind Players Club house is in foreclosure and going to auction soon. The size of the Blind Players Club house property is approximately 1.2 acres. She had asked the Building Inspector about gaining access to assess the condition of the interior of the property, however, was informed that it hadn't been addressed yet. It does appear from the most recent realtor listing that the property does have an easement on the line (not specified however all theorized that it would be due to wetlands). A basic history of the building is explained in the 2010 Historic Resource Survey.

### **New Business:**

Member Danzig expressed concern that the gazebo where yoga is held is consistently dirty with bird droppings, etc. and indicated that she has asked Village to make sure that it is cleaned on multiple occasions but it does not appear to be a priority for Village maintenance. Member Piazza recommended that the matter be brought before the Village Board that the gazebo is unkempt and needs to be addressed. He went on to suggest that the HPPC would offer to hire someone to take care of it if the Village cannot address it. Village would need to allocate funds to hire someone. Mr. Berbit recommended that there might be a better way to address this issue. It is the HPPC's responsibility to make the Village aware of the needs and the timing of completing the task.

Co-chair Levin moved on to discuss the status of repairs on Fant Farm. Although the building inspector reported that work on the front portico has been completed, there was no information given regarding the more critical repairs on the barns and cleaning up the trash on the property. Member Moetzing confirmed that the front portico looks much better but that the barns are still a complete mess. Member Moetzing indicated that the trash around the property consists all types of garbage including construction debris, old cars, tarps thrown over equipment, unused construction materials, etc. Demolition by neglect of the barns continues to be the paramount concern, with broken windows, holes in the wood, weather, animal infiltration the most concerning issues. Co-chair Levin stated she would follow-up once again with Building Inspector about what enforcement has been done. Mr. Berbit recommended that perhaps it was time for another inspection to compare to the last one performed in June, 2018. Mr. Amona has received violation notices in the past and will start to do the work but then doesn't complete them.

As Mr. Long is not in attendance, the W3R update will be tabled until next meeting.

Discussion moved on to the HPPC pamphlet revision. Co-chair Levin stated that Joan Will had provided a hard copy and printed copy of the original pamphlet completed in 2010, however, was told that the Village does not have any type of original production template to work from. Members agreed that most of the pamphlet would have to be revised anyway, so an original template might not have been very helpful anyway. Members agreed that a new map was necessary due to the size of the original map and the fact that

we now have designated historic roads to include. Co-chair Levin will contact Joan to ask about maps that might work for the pamphlet. She also mentioned that perhaps it would be wise to update the mission statement to reflect the combined HPC and Parks Commissions as the HPPC.

Discussion moved on to the website. Joan Will has requested information that we'd like to include in the HPPC section as she has begun to consolidate and update the information to reflect the combined commissions. Co-chair Levin requested that members think about what they'd like to include on the website and come to next meeting with ideas so that we can finalize and forward to Joan. Members should work on crafting a new mission statement and which links we'd like to include.

Member Goldstein initiated conversation about Rails to Trails program, a NYS program that improves trails and parks throughout the state and connect areas as far as parks are concerned. He had brought up the idea at an earlier parks meeting in 2017, however, at the time he was told that Village could not participate in the program since we didn't have a designated grant writer. Member Goldstein decided to take on the task himself and found the email from 2017 with contact names for the program. He reached out to Thomas Huddling, the Recreational Trails Coordinator for NYS Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation department. Member Goldstein found out that we do not need to write a grant for this program. Instead, HPPC would simply go to the website to find the Consolidated Funding Application, which walks you through every step of the application process. Applications can be submitted every other year. Although we missed the deadline for this year, the next deadline for applications would be July 2021, which gives the HPPC ample time to submit an application. Member Goldstein indicated that they work with biking trails, walking trails, motorized trails, improving parks...everything that the Parks commission has been discussing over the past year re: cleaning up and improving the parks. He spoke with Village Hall and found that they have specific codes for these grants. All the HPPC has to do is submit an application. He also indicated that it seems that the grants might even encompass funding the signage that the HPPC has been discussing recently. These grants could mean significant funding for the HPPC.

Co-chair Levin stated that the minutes will reflect the formation of a sub-committee to address the Rails to Trails program grant application to begin in July 2021. Member Goldstein will lead the sub-committee, with Members Danzig and Bob Israel will assist. All members would be available to sub-committee as well. Motion was made to approve the formation of said committee by Member Piazza, seconded by Member Madronero. Motion carried by all members.

With no further discussion, motion to close meeting was made by Member Madronero, seconded by Member Ellsworth. Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.