

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND PARKS COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF MONTEBELLO WAS HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 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
	Amy Rapoport	Co-Chairperson
	Tony Piazza	Member
	Maureen Danzig	Member
	Robert J. Israel	Member
	Matt Moetzing	Ad Hoc
	Josh Goldstein	Ad Hoc
	Craig Long	Village Historian/HPPC Advisor
Absent:	Dorice Madronero	Member
	Rosemary Mocio	Member
	Bill Ellsworth	Member
	Warren Berbit	Village Attorney

Co-chair Levin opened the meeting by announcing that Howard Hochberg has resigned from the HPPC and is moving on to the Village Planning Board. Village will advise whether Member Moetzing or Member Goldstein will be elevated to full member.

Co-chair Levin indicated that due to an absence of a quorum, approval of October 23, 2019 minutes would be tabled until the next meeting when a quorum is present.

Discussion proceeded to rescheduling of December meeting. Motion made by Member Piazza to cancel regular December meeting and to reconvene for the regularly scheduled January 22, 2020 meeting date. Motion seconded by Co-chair Rapoport. Motion carried.

Co-chair Rapoport alerted members that she will be out of town from January until April and that Member Piazza will be filling in for Parks for the duration of her absence.

Parks Update:

Co-chair Rapoport began with an update from the Village Board meeting. She spoke to them about Thomas putting a sign in the park for fund raising for the KGPP Eagle Scout project. The Board did not like that particular idea but they did agree that if Thomas has some fundraisers, he should give the information to the Village and it would put the information on the website, in the newsletter, etc. regarding invitation for fundraisers/donations. She recommended that he does more local fundraisers (his troop is from Congers) so that Montebello residents might participate. His goal is to raise \$3,200 for the project. The plan is that the Village will purchase the materials and he will reimburse with the money he raises. This is his arrangement so that he would not have to pay sales tax, as the Village is exempt, and he could save some money. She is waiting to hear back from Thomas and his mother re: fundraising.

With no other Parks business, discussion moved on to Historic Preservation.

Historic Preservation Update:

Co-chair Levin began with asking Mr. Long to provide an update on the W3R signs. Mr. Long met with Skip Vezetti and Alan Jessup from the Rockland County Highway Department. Mr. Long now has the Rockland County Highway sign policy and the application that the Village would have to complete for sign installation. He also asked them to prepare a map which shows the route so that when the HPPC approaches the Village Board for approval, the Board members would have a visual of what the HPPC is proposing. Mr. Long stated that Mr. Vezetti and Mr. Jessup were very excited about the prospect of Montebello beginning installation of signs since doing so would hopefully jump-start the rest of the county to follow suit. Mr. Long said that Mr. Vezetti and Mr. Jessup recommended that signs be placed at the major roads where one would enter Viola: therefore, a sign would be installed at the turn from Route 202 onto Viola, another one at Mile Road, another at Spook Rock Road in one direction and then similarly in the opposite direction coming from Spook Rock moving west along Viola. Mr. Long reminded members that applies to the county road and that we would have an issue when it comes to Route 202, which is a state road. Then, there is Lake Road, which is a Village road, which should not be an issue with permission. Mr. Long mentioned that we'd have to decide who would be used to produce the signs. Cost for production would also drive how many signs we could produce. Mr. Long offered to get a price for sign production. Once we have a price, co-chair Levin would submit the application to the Village Board for approval.

Members agreed upon final W3R sign design. Motion was made by Member Piazza, seconded by Member Goldstein, to proceed with the W3R sign design as follows: "Washington Rochambeau National Historic Trail" that depicts, in silhouette, Washington and Rochambeau on horseback, a fleur-de-lis in gold in the upper left portion of the sign superimposed over vertical red and white stripes, with "Village of Montebello" at the bottom of the sign underneath the words "National Historic Trail." The sign will be a rounded, triangular shape, with a white background (photo of sign below). Motion carried.



Co-chair Levin then moved on to discussion of the map for the revised brochure. Member Moccio, Member Madronero and she discussed what they, as the "map subcommittee," would recommend we show. The first recommendation was to eliminate all extraneous roads/features that exist outside of the Village limits, with the exception of larger major landmarks such as Harriman State Park, etc. Other recommendations include removing all property borders, except for historic properties, highlighting historic and scenic road districts and W3R route, highlighting the four local landmarks and other distinguished properties like Indian Rock, Cobblestone Farm, Bayard Lane, Fieldstone Farm, etc. Other recommendations include highlighting Harriman State Park, Kakiat Park, KGPP, Warren Berbit park and walking trails. The questions are whether we highlight Spook Rock Golf Course since as of 2019 it is technically historic and was flagged in the Historic Resource Survey as significant, especially due to its association with boy scout camps/jamborees and the fact that it is also a cultural landscape resource. Although the map subcommittee initially recommended highlighting stone walls, however Member Piazza cautioned that it would be difficult to do so because there are simply too many to feature. He did recommend that the map feature the schools in the Village because it would be helpful for new residents to the area as a point of reference.

Members also discussed highlighting the historic cemeteries in the Village: Sherwood Burial Ground on Route 202 and the Maple Grove Cemetery on Viola Road (former Grace Baptist Church location).

Co-chair Levin moved on to discuss narrative that members would like featured on new brochure in addition to what is featured on the map, including highlighted properties, points of interest, and history of area. This would include Native American information in regards to Indian Rock, Mahwah River (bridge), Senator Copeland house, Aaron Burr cottage site, etc. Member Piazza suggested listing all historical/famous persons that lived in the area. Members agreed that this would be a good idea.

Co-chair Levin mentioned the New York State and Historic Marker Grant Program funded by the William Pomeroy Foundation. Through this program, the HPPC would be given the opportunity, at little to no cost, produce historic markers. The foundation funds the production and installation of historic markers throughout New York State. Applications for this program will be available for our region in April 2020, deadline to submit letters of intent is in June 2020 and the deadline for submission is July, 2020. HPPC will decide which local historic resources it would like to showcase.

With no further discussion, motion to close meeting was made by Co-chair Rapoport, seconded by Member Moetzinger. Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.