

MINUTES

177th MEETING

**NEW YORK STATE BOARD FOR HISTORIC
PRESERVATION**

5 September 2019

**Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park
Oyster Bay, New York**

The following were present:

SRB Members

Doug Perrelli, Chair
Erika Krieger
Wint Aldrich
Kristin Herron
Lucy Waletzky
Jay DiLorenzo
Carol Clark

Absent

Jennifer Lemak
Paul Stewart
Wayne Goodman
Chuck Vandrei

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Daniel Mackay, Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation
Julian Adams, Director, Community Preservation Services
Chris Flagg, Director, Historic Sites Bureau
Kathleen LaFrank, board secretary

Staff

Virginia Bartos
Jennifer Walkowski
Bill Krattinger
Beth Cumming

Guests

Robert MacKay, Former Chair, SRB, Planting Fields Foundation
Gina Wouters, Executive Director Planting Fields Foundation
Vincent Simeone, Director, Planting Fields Arboretum
Bryan Erwin, Long Island State Park Commissioner
Alexandra Parsons Wolfe, Executive Director, Preservation Long Island
Sarah Kautz, Preservation Director, Preservation Long Island
Rita Mulhall, Planting Fields Foundation
Lilly McGurk, Planting Fields Foundation
Andres Crivello, Planting Fields Foundation
Karen A. Kennedy, Consultant, Preservation Studios
Jonathan Hyman, Pousette-Dart Foundation

Prior to the official commencement of the meeting, the board began with some unofficial activities.

Welcome

Deputy Commissioner Daniel Mackay thanked former SRB Chair Bob MacKay for his invitation to visit Planting Fields and introduced the invited guests and visitors.

Board Members Introduction

Each member of the State Review Board introduced him or herself and provided a brief background for the staff and guests.

Introduction to Planting Fields

Gina Wouters, Executive Director Planting, Fields Foundation, and Vincent Simeone, Director, Planting Fields Arboretum, made a brief presentation about the history of the site and the relationship between the Planting Fields Foundation and the New York State OPRHP. They outlined their activities over the last twenty years to capture the historic landscape, as well as the next chapter of their partnership. They provided the board with a sense of the site's extensive archives and enormous plant collections, as well as the more than twenty historic buildings on the site. They reviewed current preservation initiatives, especially the cultural landscape report, now in its final stages. They explained how the report will be used to bring back the integrity of the historic landscape, which was designed by Olmsted brothers.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. by Chair Doug Perrelli. This was followed by the roll call.

Approval of Past Minutes

There being no further corrections to the minutes for the June 2019 meeting, the chair announced that they stand approved.

REPORTS

Deputy Commissioner's Report: Daniel Mackay

Daniel Mackay reported that Commissioner Kulleseid sent his regrets but promised to join the board for its next meeting on December 4th. He also explained that the unusually small number of National Register proposals this time was attributed to one staff member being on family leave as well as the ongoing staff shortage in the National Register Unit. He announced to the board that Bill Krattinger would also be leaving the unit to begin a very important three-year project leading a survey of the state parks system that will have many benefits. He also reported that he would be traveling from the board meeting to attend a planning meeting for the 250th Anniversary of the Revolutionary War, an event that would be marked by an eight-year celebration. He noted that although we have many sites associated with the Revolution, there were more than fifty state parks with Revolutionary War associations, lending additional importance to the parks survey project. Finally, he reported on two NPS grants that had just been awarded: phase 3 of the NYC LGBT project to list several more sites on the National Register and an American Battlefield Protection Program grant for a site near Sacketts Harbor.

BOARD BUSINESS

New Business

Doug Perrelli brought up the New York State Preservation Awards, informing the other members that now was the time to think about projects of special importance that they came across during

the year (nominations, groups, individuals, preservation projects) and encouraging them to submit written information to Dan McEneny by September 10, 2019.

Future Meeting Locations

Kath LaFrank announced that she would be working with Dan McEneny to find a site in the Albany area for the December 4th meeting and awards ceremony and that she would inform them when one had been chosen.

Other Business

Jay DiLorenzo brought the board's attention to the **"Reimagining the Canal"** process being driven by the New York Power Authority. He discussed the tight time frame that the task force charged with developing recommendations was under. He recalled for the board how much time it had devoted to discussion of the *Urger*, the historic fleet, and the Barge Canal nomination, and how important these resources were, but noted that the task force did not have a specific preservation voice and stated his concern with the direction that the task force might be going.

He outlined his specific concerns:

- to make sure the waterway remains open and operable to motor and paddled vessels
- to make sure all of the canal-related resources from all eras continue to be maintained and available to the public to see and enjoy
- to make sure the historic fleet is maintained
- to make sure the canal is promoted for heritage tourism and economic development
- to make sure the surrounding communities can be capitalized for economic development

Doug Perrelli asked if there would be an opportunity to review and comment on the task force's report and Jay said that he was not sure, but that it was preferable to voice our concerns now. Wint added that we would not want to be seen as criticizing the report after it came out – better to be seen as putting forth the preservation concerns now so that the task force can take them into account. Wint added that "reimagining the canal and not reimagining it as a waterway is horrifying."

Daniel Mackay explained that the commissioner has a seat and that he had appointed a five-person project team, including Daniel, to represent him. However, the task force only allows one member per meeting and so far, he (Daniel) had not been chosen to attend.

The board discussed various proposed actions, agreeing that a letter to NYPA expressing support for the points outlined above by Jay would be appropriate. Doug Perrelli called for a motion to do so.

A motion to send a letter of concern to NYPA was put forth.

Moved: Erka Krieger

Second: Wint Aldrich

Approved: 7 in favor; 0 opposed, unanimous

Doug asked Jay to write a first draft for circulation and discussion.

Carol Clark discussed the **proposed changes to the National Register**, reporting that she had been working with the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, the National Trust and others and that all indications are that despite overwhelming opposition and virtually no support, it appears that NPS will adopt the new regulations at the end of the calendar year. She added that the National Trust is prepared to sue. The board members briefly discussed the proposed changes and how they would affect preservation in New York. Daniel Mackay added that NPS had not yet done even one of the things it was required to do in response to the comments – such as summarize them and provide a response. It was unclear whether NPS would fulfill these requirements.

NOMINATION REVIEWS

1. Schaefer & Brother Malt House, Buffalo, Erie County

Presented by: Jennifer Walkowski

Discussion:

Doug Perrelli inquired how many wooden crib warehouses there were in the city originally, and Jennifer replied, “tons and tons.” She noted that a previous one had been thought to be the last one so this discovery, only made because water damaged the plywood wall covering, might truly be the very last in the city.

Motion to approve: Kristin Herron

Second: Jay DiLorenzo

Vote: Recommended, 7 in favor, 0 opposed

2. St. Matthias Episcopal Church Complex, East Aurora, Erie County

Presented by: Jennifer Walkowski

Discussion:

Carol Clark said it was important to note that the 1950 design for the wing really complemented the original while reading as modern. Kristin Herron asked if there was any indication that the architect was influenced by the arts and crafts movement? Jennifer responded that, of course, the entire village embraced the arts and crafts aesthetic because of the proximity of Roycroft and Carol added that the church architect had ties to Roycroft so that made sense.

Daniel Mackay inquired about the motivation for the nomination and Jennifer explained that the church had an upcoming anniversary.

Motion to approve: Wint Aldrich

Second: Lucy Waletzky

Vote: Recommended, 7 in favor, 0 opposed

3. Boarding House at 72-74 Sycamore Street, Buffalo, Erie County

Presented by: Jennifer Walkowski

Discussion:

The board discussed the rarity of this pre-1840 building in Buffalo, and Daniel Mackay asked what the catalyst for the nomination was. Jennifer informed the board that Preservation Buffalo Niagara had applied for an EPF grant. Doug Perrelli asked what the proposed use was and Jennifer said that, if restored, the building would serve as new offices for PBN. Doug complimented the nomination.

Motion to approve: Kristin Herron

Second: Jay DiLorenzo

Vote: Recommended, 7 in favor, 0 opposed

4. First Presbyterian Church, Watkins Glen, Schuyler County

Presented by: Virginia Bartos

Discussion

Carol Clark noted that it was interesting that all the changes were cosmetic but that the original materials were all still there.

Motion to approve: Carol Clark

Second: Erika Krieger

Vote: Recommended, 7 in favor, 0 opposed

5. Clyde Downtown Historic District, Clyde, Wayne County

Presented by: Virginia Bartos

Discussion:

Wint Aldrich asked if Virginia could return to the original map and show the Barge Canal. Virginia said that the map pre-dated the Barge Canal; she did, however, show the Erie Canal and guessed at the route of the later Barge Canal. Doug Perrelli complimented the nomination for its organization and clarity and said it should be used as a model; several other members agreed. Virginia noted that it had been written by the local building inspector.

Motion to approve: Wint Aldrich

Second: Doug Perrelli

Vote: Recommended, 7 in favor, 0 opposed

6. A. Polvino Building, Rochester, Monroe County

Presented by: Virginia Bartos

Discussion:

Carol Clark observed that it was a very well researched nomination and noted that it was important to see vernacular buildings such as this that have an interesting industrial history. Doug Perrelli asked how common it was to have two different periods of significance; staff noted that it was not common but in this case there was such a long break between uses. Doug also noted that it held its ethnic identity from one industry to another.

Motion to approve: Carol Clark

Second: Kristin Herron

Vote: Recommended, 7 in favor, 0 opposed

7. Park Avenue Historic District, Rochester, Monroe County

Presented by: Virginia Bartos

Discussion:

Several board members noted that this was another impressive nomination in terms of form and structure. Doug Perrelli commented on its massive size.

Motion to approve: Erika Krieger

Second: Lucy Waletzky

Vote: Recommended, 7 in favor, 0 opposed

8. Glenco Mills Methodist Church, Livingston, Columbia County

Presented by: Bill Krattinger

Discussion:

Doug Perrelli asked Bill to explain the term “non archeological” when used in reference to the church’s Gothic design, which Bill did, explaining that it meant not according to strict medieval precedent or that the design is more eclectic, picturesque.

Motion to Approve: Doug Perrelli

Second: Carol Clark

Vote: Recommended, 7 in favor, 0 opposed

9. Amsterdam Free Library, Amsterdam, Montgomery County

Presented by: Bill Krattinger

Discussion:

Carol Clark asked Bill to modify his statement that this represented an emerging building type in the state to refer only to the city – saying that this type was found in many different cities throughout the state. Bill agreed, noting that he had edited this draft rather than written it and had missed that nuance.

Amsterdam Free Library, continued

Wint asked about Carnegie's direct involvement with the design of the libraries he funded and Kath explained that she thought that he approved them rather than furnished designs himself. Carol Clark noted that in NYC he approved the firms hired to design the libraries.

Motion to Approve: Wint Aldrich

Second: Jay DiLorenzo

Vote: Recommended, 7 in favor, 0 opposed

10. Danascara Place, Tribes Hill, Montgomery County

Presented by: Bill Krattinger

Discussion: none

Motion to approve: Jay Di Lorenzo

Second: Kristin Herron

Vote: Recommended, 7 in favor, 0 opposed

11. Richard Pousette-Dart House and Studio, Suffern, Rockland County

Presented by: Bill Krattinger

Discussion:

After his presentation, Bill introduced Jonathan Hyman, who addressed the board on behalf of the Pousette-Dart Foundation:

Mr. Hyman thanked the board and explained that this was a living, breathing house in a living, breathing environment. He explained the effect on the artist of having a river literally footsteps from his back door and said that Pousette-Dart's use of the property, his enjoyment and understanding of the site and nature itself were inextricably connected to the way that he thought about art and the way he thought about himself. He talked about the information that he was able to obtain from the artist's two children, both artists, through the National Register documentation process, about their father's use of the building, including Pousette-Dart's spiritual connections to the cosmos. He noted that you can see the artist's references to the natural landscape in his art and pointed out certain features in the paintings. He also read a letter from the executive director of the Pousette-Dart Foundation and gave it to Bill to be filed with the nomination when it is sent to NPS.

Wint Aldrich recalled that when he was deputy commissioner for historic preservation, Pousette-Dart's widow offered the site to the state as an historic site. Soon thereafter, a number of other Rockland County artists offered their homes and studios to the state for the same purpose. Although the state was not interested in acquiring any more historic sites at the time, Wint noted that he was so pleased to see that at least this one had had been saved and was being nominated.

Motion to approve: Wint Aldrich

Second: Kristin Herron

Vote: Recommended, 7 in favor, 0 opposed

12. Washington Avenue Corridor Historic District Albany, Albany County

Presented by: Bill Krattinger

Discussion:

Doug Perrelli complimented the nomination as another nice write up. Kristin Herron inquired as to what the objections were about and Bill listed fear of regulations, fear of local regulations, fear of overlay districts, etc. Kristin also asked him to explain his inclusion of recent modern buildings in the district and Bill noted that some of them had replaced historic buildings preservationists fought to preserve; however, time moves forward and they were old enough now to be considered. In addition, they related to the important district theme of redevelopment.

Daniel Mackay noted that this district had formed a hole in the preservation landscape in downtown Albany and that he was very pleased to see it come forward.

Motion to approve: Wint Aldrich

Second: Erika Krieger

Vote: Recommended, 7 in favor, 0 opposed

13. Rutherford House, Edmeston, Otsego County

Presented by: Kathleen LaFrank

Discussion: none

Motion to approve: Kristin Herron

Second: Jay DiLorenzo

Vote: Recommended, 7 in favor, 0 opposed

14. First Presbyterian Church of Deposit, Broome and Delaware Counties

Presented by: Kathleen LaFrank

Discussion: none

Motion to approve: Lucy Waletzky

Second: Doug Perrelli

Vote: Recommended, 7 in favor, 0 opposed

Following the reviews, Daniel Mackay acknowledged that the National Register unit had produced great results in an understaffed situation and thanked the unit and those who made presentations today for enduring while producing high quality work under deadlines.

He also acknowledged that while we had no Long Island nominations today because of an unusual family leave situation, we have been producing a fascinating diversity of nominations from this region until now and that they were treated with the same care and deliberation as the proposals presented today. He noted that over 2,600 properties had been endorsed today and will be listed on the State Register in the next few weeks.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m. on a motion by Wint Aldrich seconded by Lucy Waletzky.

Lunch

During lunch, Chris Flagg, Historic Sites Bureau Director, gave board members and guests a presentation about the historic landscape of Planting Fields, and immediately after lunch, a group met Chris and Vincent Simeone for a tour of the grounds.