

Minutes
BENNINGTON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Bennington Town Office – Conference Room
January 29, 2019

Present: Anne Bugbee, Zirwat Chowdhury, Michael McDonough, and Jeff Goldstone
Absent: Joseph Hall

Also Present: Victor Rolando and Robert Tegart

The Bennington Historic Preservation Commission reviewed the following:

1. Grant Program Opportunity – Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program

- Application deadline is March 1, 2019
- Need clarification on the grant award ranging between \$100,000 - \$750,000, is it possible to dole out the money in increments, more than one project?
- HPC cited two possible projects that might be a potential for the grant application – Masonic Hall building, and the Putnam project
- Would HPC need to publicize the grant opportunity?

Zirwat offered to review the rules and opportunities that are available in the grant, she will report back to Commission members upon a thorough review.

2. Merchants Park Building Color

Jeff Goldstone from Goldstone Architecture presented the color samples along with the Color Schedule and elevations of the Stage. HPC unanimously approved the colors that were presented.

3. Other Preservation Issues

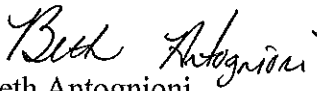
- Victor Rolando is a private citizen who lives in the neighborhood where St. Peter's Episcopal Church is located, he wanted to bring attention to HPC the Solar Panel Project at St. Peter's Episcopal Church on Pleasant Street. Mike McDonough spoke with Zoning Administrator Dan Monks regarding the guidelines of solar installations. Mike shared that the solar installations are under the Public Utility Commission (PUC) purview. Solar panels are exempt from municipal regulation. Dan Monks noted that the Town has not seen any application for the solar panels, and possibly would not see an application.

Mike stated that the role of HPC is to offer assistance and guidance to the Church so that the installation of the panels on the roof does not detract from the overall structure going forward and does not detract from other surrounding historic buildings.

- Mike shared with HPC that the Bennington Banner has been publishing photos of historic buildings from the Bennington Museum that have been colorized by contemporary artist Tim Wager. The Bennington Museum has the rights to the photos and Tim Wager has a

contract with the Museum to use the photos. There is a concern among HPC members that the colors used are not an accurate depiction of the colors of the period. HPC's role is education, it was suggested that HPC reach out to the Bennington Museum regarding this subject. Zirwat noted that given that the historic downtown is on the threshold of exciting revitalization plans, however, we request that any assertions about the historicity of the photographs be carefully explained so that the reading public understands the difference between historical color and color being added to historic photographs by a contemporary photographer. Zirwat will draft a memo and forward it on to HPC members.

Respectfully submitted,


Beth Antognioni
Community Development
Administrative Assistant