

Historic Preservation Committee
Sub-Committee of the CAC
October 18, 2021 10:00am

Minutes of the Meeting of the Historic Preservation Committee, a Sub-Committee of the Conservation Committee of the Town of Copake.

Present: Howard Blue, Lesley Doyel (Co-Chair), Catherine Mikic (Co-Chair), Peter Reed, Jeff Wood.

Mikic called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. with all members of the committee present. Minutes from the meeting held on September 13, 2021, were unanimously approved. Doyel reviewed meeting protocols and will reconfirm with Masters and Mettler that this committee's procedures are in compliance. Doyel noted that \$500 has been approved to support the work of this committee with funds being channeled through the Town Historian's line (Howard Blue).

The committee discussed various tools and resources that could be used to facilitate research, including online databases such as ancestry.com and newspapers.com. Mikic reviewed two documents that provide information and guidance with respect to developing historic building inventories. This included a synopsis of inventory guidelines developed by Montclair NJ that identified key criteria. It was noted that barns and farm buildings could be included as infrastructure. Blue also questioned other kinds of historic resources that do not qualify as buildings. While of historic interest, the committee agreed to focus initially on buildings. The committee also reviewed an Historic Resource Inventory Form used by New York State Historic Preservation Office. It was noted that tax assessment records are one of the most useful tools, and Wood will request a copy of the County's records for buildings in Copake that date before 1930. The committee is interested in speaking to Tom Moreland of Austerlitz to learn about his experiences in assembling inventories. Doyel will schedule a meeting. The committee agreed to work through one or more case studies of historic buildings in Copake in an effort to put the inventory form and criteria into practice in order to ensure that they serve our needs. The committee briefly discussed an interest in better understanding the history of Copake (the town and landscape) so that an inventory of individual historic buildings is situated in a broader context. Blue will consider how to organize historical background information and logical time periods, and so forth.

The next committee meeting will take place on Monday, November 15, at 10 am at Copake Town Hall. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.