

**Town of Victor  
Historic Advisory Committee  
Meeting Agenda for June 5, 2019**

**Members present:** Ann Aldrich, Michael Houser, John Butler, Bonnie Waters,  
Sue Stehling, Bob Kelly, and Babette Huber (Historian-Advisor)

**Visitors Present:** Joel Richter, president of the Friends of the Railroad

**Call to order:** The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Chairperson, Ann Aldrich

**Approval of Minutes:** John Butler moved to accept the minutes of the April 3, 2019; the motion was seconded by Bonnie Waters; upon discussion the minutes were revised to show Sue Stehling in attendance; motion was approved

**Old Business:**

Cemetery Preservation and Restoration Committee – Bob Kelly reported that a preliminary look at the cemeteries seemed to indicate that they were in good shape. The committee will do a more detailed walk of the Village Cemetery with consultant, Richard Doyle. Babette recommended that the committee investigate placing a plaque on the site of the abandoned cemetery on the corner of 7863 Main Street, Fishers and Wangum Road and also that the committee check out the Barber-Bennett Cemetery on Fishers Road. Babette will provide committee with location.

Historian's report from April and May—In addition to her list of activities, Babette reported that Sue Stehling received an award from the Ontario County Office for the Aging in recognition for her volunteer and civic work. Babette also noted that seven historic home plaques for village homes will be presented on June 20<sup>th</sup>, at the Village Hall. These include:

- Simonds-Cotton House, 1905, 26 Maple Ave. (Jeff and Kayko Jarmusz)
- Henehan House, 1910, 31 East St. (Judith Knight)
- Miller House, 1925, 131 Church St (Joel Sapienza)
- Corey House, c. 1907, 20 West Main St (Larry and Mary Colyer)
- Smith-Lovejoy-Wegemann House, c. 1880, 271 East Main St (Janet Wegemann)
- Snyder-Polhemus House, c. 1901, 161 East Main St (Robert and Lynn Brien)
- Mead-Butler House, 1922, 172 Maple Ave (John and Dawn Holden)

First Thursday Historic lecture series – Bob reported that he would be talking on Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, on Roswell Murray. This is the final lecture of the 2018/2019 series. In the process of planning for the 2019/2020 series.

Review updated Goals and Action Item 2019 – No further action was taken on the Goals and Action Plan

**New Business:**

Information on code relating to additions and renovations to historic structures – Babette will be meeting with Councilman Tantillo to explore the feasibility of strengthening the codes so that home-owners propose modifications to high priority historical homes they would need approval from the Architectural Review Board.

Babette and Councilman Tantillo will meet with Town Assessor to investigate a tax abatement policy for these houses with high historic value so that improvements are untaxed for five years and then subject to a gradual increase to full assessment over five years. A tax incentive for property owners with houses of historic value.

Updates on local issues related to historical preservation:

7863 Main St. Fishers – Plaque needed to identify abandoned cemetery

7955 St. Rt. 251 – Historic cobblestone house in need of repairs; town code-enforcement officer is pushing for compliance; front porch needs work

1086 Strong Rd. – The Ott family owns this property. They have had difficulties and will be selling the farm and house.

Victor Historical Society – The code enforcement officer has been critical of the condition of the property and has encouraged repairs. He is looking for more information from the Historical Society. The Historic Society buildings are located within prized real estate and are feeling pressure from their neighbors and developers. In addition, development across the road is before the Zoning Board of Appeals and is looking to expand parking.

7728 Dryer Rd. – The Town Department of Public Works has scheduled repairs and resurfacing of Dryer Road. The cobblestone structure at 7728 Dryer Road is near the road and there is concern that repairs may be detrimental to the property.

Historic Advisory Committee Membership – It is the desire of the Historic Advisory Committee to fill our current open position with a student representative. Lisa Boughton's daughter has been approached but has not committed.

#### **Liaisons Reports:**

Planning—Ann Aldrich reported that there was nothing before the Planning Board of historical significance

Zoning—John Butler reported that he was unable to attend the Zoning Board Meeting in which development and parking around Valentown Museum were proposed. He will attend the follow-up meeting

**Privilege of the Floor:** Joel Richter, president of the Friends of the Railroad, reported on activities that impact the railroads and rail paths in the Town of Victor. He pointed out that this year is the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victor Insulators and that they are a company that depends on having rail service. The town is beginning a project to pipe waste to the Farmington Sewage Plant along the abandoned Auburn railroad bed that is now a hiking trail. In addition town officials are looking at the feasibility of creating a bypass road that uses the Lehigh Valley railroad land from Route 251 to Route 444 in the village. Some have proposed taking this further going east, running into Route 96 east of the village.

It would be fitting to have tours of Victor Insulators facility and to promote its role in the community at “Hang Around Victor Days”. In conjunction with that celebration we should do our First Thursday Historical Lecture on the topic of Victor Insulators. Wilma Townsend could do that lecture. In addition, Joel agreed to do a lecture on the history of the railroads in Victor for a future lecture.

**Observations around Town:** The cobblestone “Felt Store” property in East Victor is for sale and is now under a real estate contract.

**Announcements:** -- Historic Victor plaque presentation, Thursday, June 20, 7:00 pm at the Village Hall

**Date for next meeting**—August 7, 2019 (skipping July because of the holiday)

Motion to adjourn was made by Sue Stehling at 8:45; seconded by Michael Houser; carried