

**Village of Penn Yan Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting Minutes September 11, 2018**

111 Elm Street

5:30 pm EXECUTIVE SESSION ROOM

Present: Brenda Ingram-Chairperson, Shirley Owens, Fran Dumas, Christopher Wright, Andy Baus, Marcia Kneeland-alt., Rich Stewart-VB Liaison, Lynn Duryea-Secy.

Absent:

Public Present: No one

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FIRST ITEM:

Chairperson Ingram told everyone she had requested input from their SHPO representative, James Finelli, about neon lighting approvals. She referred to his email response and information from a Preservation Brief excerpt which seemed to suggest neon lights were a municipal decision. Commissioner Dumas pointed out Penn Yan Historic District already had its own sign regulations that prohibited neon. The secretary presented a copy of the sign regulations as they applied to the Historic District and Commissioner Wright read the following section aloud: *'Permitted illuminated signs must be front lit, rather than internally illuminated. ... Neon lights are normally considered inappropriate by the Commission for use in the Historic District. Special uses will be considered on an individual basis. No flashing, intermittent, rotating or moving lights may be used, except warning lights for hazards.'* Commissioner Wright said he concluded this gave the commission latitude for approval of neon in certain situations. The commissioners discussed the visibility problem the Mustang Pub was experiencing and whether their situation could be considered unique enough to allow neon. Commissioner Dumas pointed out there was the likelihood others would demand neon if it was approved for the Mustang Pub. Commissioner Baus reported there were rumors among people in the community the Historic Commission determined approvals based on preference and not policy. He said he considered the neon light matter an example of that since there was policy allowing exceptions. Commissioner Wright said he thought neon lights were a common feature in an historic commercial district. Commissioner Kneeland said the Mustang Pub sign was neither original nor historic and should not be allowed. Commissioner Baus pointed out if they denied Mustang Pub signage they would need to articulate an actual reason that was not based on preference since the guidelines allow for exceptions. Commissioner Owens pointed out the commission had been denying neon lighting all along and they should stay consistent. Chairperson Ingram said she would vote to approve if the Mustang Pub redesigned the sign to have neon and to look historic. Commissioner Dumas opposed that idea saying something that looked historic was not the same as being historic. Commissioner Wright argued the commission approved changes all the time that were only historic in appearance. He cited his own experience replacing old windows with new that were designed to only appear historic. Commissioner Dumas indicated she would vigorously oppose any neon signage application. Commissioner Kneeland left the meeting to go and look at the Mustang Pub signage problem. She returned and reported she agreed their business was inconspicuous without a lighted sign because of the lighted Tavern signage nearby.

The Commissioners talked about an upcoming demolition application they would be reviewing at their October meeting. There was a comment about the applicant not including any reasoning on the application for the demolition even though the application did not provide an area for narrative of any kind. Trustee liaison Stewart mentioned the new appeals process draft had not been approved yet but a denial that was appealed would still have to go before the Village Board.

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Commissioner Dumas commented on the written response from Pinckney’s which stated they would not remove the obsolete hanging sign at 110-112 Elm Street because they had plans to paint it white.

Referencing the minutes of the previous meeting, the commissioners read each item of old business.

A **MOTION** by Chris Wright and a **SECOND** from Andy Baus to approve the August 14, 2018 minutes with changes Commissioner Dumas made regarding where her approved paint colors would be applied. Fran Dumas – aye. Christopher Wright – aye. Andy Baus - aye. Marcia Kneeland – aye. **Motion carried.**

OTHER BUSINESS:

▪ **Website changes:**

The following was the list of changes requested by commissioners:

- 1.) All info RE Historic Pres. Commission (HPC) including existing website info (member names, application and *Inheritance of Time*) put on separate page of website,
- 2.) Link on HPC page to Village Code Book **Chapter 110; Historic Areas, Preservation of,**
- 3.) Map of the Historic District using the one in *Inheritance of Time*
- 4.) Narrative from their application put at top of HPC page to read;

“If your property is located within Penn Yan’s Historic Preservation District it is necessary to receive approval before proceeding with any exterior alteration, construction activity or site improvement that will be visible from a public way.

The Village of Penn Yan Historic Preservation District Commission (the “Commission”) meets each month. Applications must be submitted to Commission staff by 4:00pm on the last Thursday of the month to ensure the application will be heard at the following month’s public meeting. Applications may be submitted in person at 111 Elm Street or by email to lduryea@villageofpennyan.com. All applicant fields on this form must be complete and legible, all requested documentation must be included with your application; incomplete applications will be denied. The applicant or an authorized representative must be present at the public meeting during which the application is reviewed, or the request may be denied. For questions regarding the application process, please contact Lynn Duryea at 315-279- 6560 or by email at lduryea@villageofpennyan.com.”

Commissioner Kneeland asked about village signage to identify the historic district. The others said they saw several Historic Penn Yan plaque-type signs around town. She then mentioned having another workshop. There was a suggestion to ask the Landmark Society for a presenter and another to propose the idea to a new village business named ReFind.

A **MOTION** by Chris Wright and a **SECOND** from Andy Baus to adjourn the meeting at 6:45PM.

Shirley Owens–aye. Fran Dumas–aye. Chris Wright–aye. Andy Baus-aye.

Motion carried.

Submitted by Secretary:

Lynn Duryea