

VILLAGE OF COXSACKIE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
September 17, 2024

Chairperson Patricia Maxwell (“the Chair”) called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present were Historic Preservation Commission Members: Michael Rausch, Chris Fisher, David Dorpfeld, Nancy Harm, Hannah Kastanos, and Wendy Warren.

A motion to approve the minutes from the August 13, 2024, Historic Preservation Commission Meeting was made by Wendy Warren and seconded by Chris Fisher. Patricia Maxwell voted yes. Michael Rausch voted yes. Chris Fisher voted yes. David Dorpfeld voted yes. Nancy Harm voted yes. Hannah Kastanos voted yes. Wendy Warren voted yes. The motion carried.

New Business

1. 1 Ely Street-Heermance Memorial Library- Chairperson Maxwell stated that the Heermance Memorial Library has submitted an application for the replacement of steps and exterior lights.

Catherine Benson, Library Director, stated that the library is looking to replace the damaged exterior lighting with new hanging pendant lights for safety. By removing a sconce light by the side office door that is not currently used by staff or patrons, and replacing it instead with the pendant light to be located over the library’s side door, patrons will be more safe with illumination to the pathway and the side entrance. The narrow front steps will have the treads elongated for the safety of patrons who access the front entrance. The deteriorated, wooden sign at the top of the library’s driveway, alerting drivers to keep right, will be repainted. The outdoor enclosed bulletin board on the side porch wall will hold about 9 sheets of flyers for library programming and services to display, and withstand the elements, under the protection of the porch. This will allow staff to not have to bring the portable easel in and out of the building daily, with current flyers exposed to the weather, and in need of reprinting in damp weather.

Chairperson Maxwell asked if the driveway sign is going to be the same design and colors that are currently there.

Catherine Benson stated that the sign will be the same design, just updated.

Michael Rausch asked if the pendant lights would have replaceable bulbs, not LED’s. He suggested either Edison style, or soft light, rather than day light. He asked if the notice board would be a felt board with either glass or plexiglass.

Patricia Maxwell asked if Ms. Benson knew whether the notice board would have glass or plexiglass.

Catherine Benson stated that the notice board would have plexiglass.

Chris Fisher asked if he understood correctly that the notice board would not be lighted.

Catherine Benson stated that the notice board would not be lit. The notice board states that it is not made for outdoor use, however, it will be under the protection of the porch overhang.

Chairperson Maxwell asked if the notice board will be the same color.

Catherine Benson stated that the notice board will be the same color, and will be installed with screws. She said that the library will be removing the bluestone step at the bottom of the main steps into the library, removing the narrow 11 ¼" wood treads on the steps, installing new wider 15" wood tread steps with 1" overhang, and will be painting the color and sheen to match the steps already installed. Sand may be added for better tread grip.

Chris Fisher asked what type of wood would be used for the steps.

Catherine Benson stated that she is not sure what type of wood will be used for the steps, but that it will be donated from a local business.

Chris Fisher stated that it is hard to find 15" wood treads, which is why he was curious.

Chairperson Maxwell asked if the new steps will be less steep.

Catherine Benson stated that the new steps will be less steep.

David Dorpfeld asked Mr. Fisher his opinion on whether or not he knew what type of wood would be best for the library's steps.

Chris Fisher stated that unfortunately, all exterior wood deteriorates overtime due to being in the weather.

David Dorpfeld asked Ms. Benson if the library would put down pads on the steps.

Catherine Benson stated that the library will put down pads on the steps, and replace railings as well.

Hannah Kastanos stated that in order to make the steps wider, the library will have to change the footprint.

Catherine Benson stated that that is correct. In replacing the steps, the library hopes to eliminate trip hazards.

Hannah Kastanos asked if the color of the steps is staying the same.

Catherine Benson stated that the color of the steps is staying the same.

A motion to approve the application received from the Heermance Memorial Library for the sign update, new notice board, replacement of steps and exterior lights at 1 Ely Street was made by Michael Rausch and seconded by Chris Fisher. Chairperson Maxwell voted yes. Michael Rausch voted yes. Chris Fisher voted yes. David Dorpfeld voted yes. Nancy Harm voted yes. Hannah Kastanos voted yes. Wendy Warren voted yes. The motion carried.

Old Business

1. 2-6 Reed Street/33 South River Street- (former Cumming's Hotel) – Chairperson Maxwell stated that there are no updates on this project at this time.

2. Training- Chairperson Maxwell stated that she has received webinars from the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC), which she has forwarded to the board members. The NAPC allows for the downloading of webinars on their website in order to fulfill training requirements. The board members need to complete 4 hours of training/year.

Public Comment Period

No public comments were offered.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the Historic Preservation Commission meeting was made by Nancy Harm and seconded by Wendy Warren. Chairperson Maxwell voted yes. Michael Rausch voted yes. Chris Fisher voted yes. David Dorpfeld voted yes. Nancy Harm voted yes. Hannah Kastanos voted yes. Wendy Warren voted yes. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nikki Berezna". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nikki Berezna
Clerk