

HISTORIC PROPERTIES BOARD

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Town of Somers
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

EMIL ANTONACCIO
CHAIRMAN



MEETING MINUTES

May 25, 2017

Chair Emil Antonaccio opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Somers Historical Society President Emil Antonaccio, Architectural Review Board member Mark Brown, resident Architect Ken Bond, Town Supervisor Rick Morrissey, and Parks and Recreation Board Chairman Jim Papa were present.

Town Historian Doris Jane Smith was absent.

Minutes – A motion was made by Mr. Papa and seconded by Mr. Brown to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2016 regular meeting. All were in favor.

Wright-Reis Homestead Roof – The entire roof on the Wright-Reis Homestead has been replaced. A gutter leader had to be added in the back and the one on the left side of the house repaired.

Wright-Reis Homestead Remaining Projects 2017 – There were enough shingles left from the Homestead roof project to put a new roof on the summer kitchen. Chuck Dammeyer can do that project. In addition the back of the horse barn has to be replaced. Mr. Dammeyer will do that work as well.

One large and four small locust trees have to be removed from the property. Walter and Sons Tree Service submitted a proposal in the amount of \$3,500 to complete the work. He will leave the wood chips, which will eventually be used to clear the way to the pond. Hopefully that project can be completed by some Boy Scouts. Mr. Papa made a motion to contract Walter and Sons Tree Service to remove the 5 locust trees at a cost of \$3,500. Mr. Morrissey seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Gazebo in Bailey Park – The Gazebo in Bailey Park has undergone a major renovation and the work is almost complete. Numerous donations were made for the electric, painting and concrete floor work. Mr. Dammeyer did all the carpentry. Mr. Morrissey would like to see the summer concerts held at the gazebo again and it should be decorated during the holidays with a tree under it.

Wright-Reis Homestead and Possessions – On November 10, 2016, the Somers Historical Society sent the Somers Historic Properties Board a letter requesting that:

- a) The Town of Somers grant a lease for use of the Wright-Reis Homestead (house, outbuildings and site) to the Somers Historical Society similar to that for the use of the Third Floor of the Elephant Hotel.
- b) The Town of Somers transfer ownership of Caroline Wright Reis' possessions (contents of the house and outbuildings, with the exception of the two vehicles, 1917 Model T Ford and 1941 Nash, which are licensed and insured by the Town).

A motion was made by Mrs. Smith and seconded by Mr. Bond to request that the Town Board authorize the Town Attorney to meet with Margaret Nicholson, Somers Historical Society's Attorney to prepare the necessary documents. All were in favor.

A memo with a copy of the letter of request was sent to the Town Board, and a Resolution authorizing the Town Attorney to meet with Somers Historical Society's Attorney Margaret Nicholson to prepare necessary documents to grant a lease of the Wright-Reis Homestead and transfer ownership of Caroline Wright-Reis' possessions was adopted.

The Town Attorney and Mrs. Nicholson have met once and will meet again to finalize everything. The Somers Historical Society is willing to insure the possessions.

Grant Application for Historic Markers – Mr. Antonaccio is working with the Grant R Us folks on a grant application for historic markers to be placed at the Mt. Zion Church, Tomahawk Chapel, Stone House, Elephant Hotel and Business Historic Preservation District. The grant is available through The William G. Pomeroy Foundation. If awarded, it includes the standard markers, mounting poles and shipping. Installation is the recipient's responsibility.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 17 at 4:30 p.m. in the Map Room at the Town House.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Somers Historic Properties Board

cc: Town Board
Town Clerk
Planning Board
Somers Historical Society