

HISTORIC PROPERTIES BOARD

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Town of Somers

WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

EMIL ANTONACCIO
CHAIRMAN



MEETING MINUTES

August 31, 2023

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

The following members were present: Somers Historical Society President Emil Antonaccio, Resident Architect Ken Bond, Architectural Review Board Member John DeMase, Town Supervisor Rob Scorrano, Town Historian Doris Jane Smith and Parks and Recreation Board Chairman Kevin Westerman.

Minutes – A motion was made by Mr. Scorrano and seconded by Mr. Westerman to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2023 meeting. All were in favor.

Business:

Exterior Security – At their April 20th Board Meeting, the Town Board appointed Marshall Alarm Systems to provide exterior security for all Town owned buildings, including the Homestead and Mt. Zion Church. The work began in May and is now complete. The Police Department and Parks and Recreation Department will be able to see what is going on at both buildings via their computers. Currently there is no plan for signage, but can be arranged if requested.

Wright-Reis Homestead Outbuildings Roof Repairs – The roofs of the Homestead chicken coop and storage shed need to be replaced. Mr. Wintje ordered half the cedar shakes at the end of 2022 and the remaining half at the beginning of 2023. As Mr. Wintje has been busy with other projects, Mr. Scorrano offered an option of hiring an outside contractor to replace the roofs, but Mr. Antonaccio would much prefer that Mr. Wintje do the work. Mr. Scorrano hopes that Mr. Wintje can begin the work at some time in October, but wants staff member Marty Stole to assist or at the very least be present when Mr. Wintje is on the roofs working.

Tomahawk Chapel Stairs – The materials needed to install stairs off the porch of the Chapel are being stored and the work will begin as soon as Mr. Wintje's schedule allows.

Additional Work at the Homestead – The Homestead Horse Barn is in need of structural repairs and the Spring House needs to be reconstructed. Hopefully Mr. Wintje can get these projects done in 2024.

Contractor's Contracts – Mr. Westerman commented on the existing language of the indemnity clause of the contractor's contracts as in his opinion it is incorrect. Mr. Scorrano will speak to the Town Attorney about this.

Water Leak at Homestead – An email was received from a member of the Historical Society concerning a recent water heater leak in the basement that was not discovered for a couple of weeks and the impact the dampness from it may have had on the collections, particularly the books, in the Wright-Reis Homestead. Mr. Antonaccio told the Board that the problem was repaired by Bee & Jay Plumbing and the water heater replaced. He assured them that there was no impact on the collections, including the books. Staff member Mr. Stole cleaned up after the leak and set up a dehumidifier on the 1st floor. He checks the dehumidifier on a daily basis and airs the house out as weather permits.

Model T Ford – Besides her home and its contents, Caroline Wright-Reis left her Model T Ford to the Town. A few years back, a Boy Scout secured funds as part of his Eagle Scout project to make repairs to the car to enable it to run again. Resident, former Highway Department mechanic and Historical Society member Arnie Guyot did that work. He also drives the Model T in the Memorial Day and Veteran Day parades. In order to keep the car in running condition, both the engine and transmission will need to be worked on. It is estimated that cost will be no more than \$10,000. Mr. Guyot is in the process of collecting three proposals from mechanics who do that type of work. Hopefully, monies left in the 2023 Historic Properties budget can be dedicated to that project and the remaining funds needed provided by the Town. The Supervisor's office is also in the process of working with Mr. Guyot on a policy for others to drive the car when necessary. A training manual will be created by Mr. Guyot and he will train the prospective drivers.

Proposed 2024 Budget – The proposed 2024 budget was reviewed and discussed. It has not been increased in a few years and includes a contractual line as well as monies needed for projects at the Mt. Zion Church, Tomahawk Chapel and Wright-Reis Homestead. A motion was made by Mr. DeMase and seconded by Mrs. Smith to approve the proposed 2024 budget as submitted. All were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m. and the Board will meet next on Thursday, November 30th at 4:30 p.m. in the Somers Town House Map Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Somers Historic Properties Board

cc: Town Board
Town Clerk
Planning Board
Somers Historical Society