

HISTORIC PROPERTIES BOARD

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Town of Somers
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N.Y.

EMIL ANTONACCIO
CHAIRMAN



MEETING MINUTES

November 30, 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, and Parks and Recreation Board Chairman Kevin Westerman.

Town Historian Doris Smith was absent.

Minutes – A motion was made by Mr. Westerman and seconded by Mr. Bond to approve the minutes of the August 31, 2023 meeting. All were in favor.

Business:

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.

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, and staff member Marty Stole be asked to assist or at the very least

be present when Mr. Wintje is on the roofs working.

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 some of the work, as well as an artisan mechanic in Massachusetts. In order to keep the car in running condition, both the engine and transmission need to be worked on as well. Mr. Guyot collected three proposals from mechanics who do that type of work, and the artisan mechanic in Massachusetts was approved to do that work in will begin in January. The monies left in the 2023 Historic Properties budget will be dedicated to that project and the remaining funds will be provided by the Town.

Water Leak at Homestead – It was reported at the August meeting that 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 those concerned 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. Since then, there was further concern about mold in the building. Mold kits were purchased, set up and the results sent away for testing. If there is in fact a situation, it will be handled professionally.

Exterior Security – 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 is now complete. The Police Department, Parks and Recreation Department and the Supervisor will be able to see what is going on at both buildings via their computers.

2024 Meeting Dates – The 2024 meeting dates are as follows: February 22, May 23, August 22 and November 21. All were asked to mark their calendars.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. and the Board will meet next on Thursday, February 22nd 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