City of North Tonawanda

Historic Preservation Commission

City Hall
216 Payne Ave.
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Regular Meeting – May 19, 2014, 6:00 PM

MINUTES

Present: Rae Proefrock, Jay Soemann, April Gampp, Linda Hayes
Pete Trinkwalder, Joe Fonzi, Dennis Pasiak

Meeting called to order: 6:00pm

Public Hearing

National Grid Transfer Station
Rae Proefrock introduced committee, and stated that since the transfer station was historically significant to the city of North Tonawanda, the committee felt it should be designated a historic landmark. Significance of building is because it transferred power from the city of Niagara Falls, all the way to Buffalo.

Public was offered opportunity to speak in favor of, or against naming the building.

Jean Duerr (Broeker) was in favor of it, stated her father used to work there and she had fond memories of stopping in to visit and talk with him.

Ken Kujawa, Niagara County Representative from National Grid spoke on behalf of the company and stated that although the building was for sale not long ago, it is no longer, and the company has no plans to sell or lease the property and they are evaluating a plan to utilize crews at that location again. He asked that naming the property a historic landmark not limit their customers' needs, building repairs, maintenance or safety needs of the property.

Rae stated that the committee's interest in the property is in the exterior, and that any changes to that would need to go through the proper process, and there would be no impact on National Grid's use.

Audience member asked if National Grid had plans to demolish the property – Ken stated "No".

Committee member Dennis Pasiak asked if there was a maintenance plan for the building. Ken was not sure on the plans for the building and stated he could check with their facilities group.

Rae stated that if there was anything left inside the building, it should not be discarded. Any original windows should also be saved; Ken stated he would look into it.

Audience member Rick Falkowski asked if the building were designated a local landmark, would there be any opportunity to open the building to the public? He stated there was a picture of that

building in the Edison Museum, and it would be nice if school groups may be able to tour it. He also stated that the Power Authority may be a possible opportunity for grant funding. Ken stated he would check into these items.

No other audience questions.

Public hearing concluded, regular commission meeting called to order 6:13pm.

Old Business

Naming of National Grid transfer station
1st – Jay Soemann, 2nd – April Gampp, All in favor 7 Aye, 0 Nay, motion carried.

Lumber Baron District
Committee looking to designate area on National Register of Historic Places. Working with graduate student from UB School of Architecture to submit application soon.

Webster's Bistro
Updates to patio – Rae took ideas to owner, she agreed to face the posts, and liked some of the additional details. They plan on installing canvas drop sides that match awning over the door.

Wurlitzer Complex
Mayor Ortt looking into funding for engineering study on original buildings.

New Business

Rae introduced Christine Capella Peters from State Historic Preservation Office, she was in town to audit the commission and had a few suggestions, and she would send a full report to the Mayor's office.

Vote on nomination for Erie Canalway for National Register of Historic Places – Rae emailed Kathleen Lafrance questions about impact of properties on canal, any canals/locks, Dennis Pasiak asked about financial impact – none according to Chris Cappella, but may open doors to tax credits/grants. Mayor Ortt stated that this designation would only impact the canal corp. properties, no private properties.
1st – Joe Fonzi, 2nd – Pete Trinkwalder, 7 Aye, 0 Nay, motion carried

Plan for future meetings
- Committee will create review criteria/set standards for decisions regarding windows/doors/signage
- Ensure photo documentation of current state of properties, and proposed changes, and after photos
- Revise certificate of appropriateness application, do not review unless it is completed in full

Motion to adjourn
1st – Pete Trinkwalder, 2nd – Jay Soemann, 7 Aye, 0 Nay, motion carried

Meeting adjourned 6:33pm

Next Meeting- June 16, 2014 at 6:00 PM