ORLEANS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: Wednesday, March 30, 2011   10; 00 AM

Place: Orleans Town Hall

Present:
    James Hadley, Chair
    Richard Besciak
    Catherine Southworth
    Ann Sinclair
    Bonnie Snow
    Sarah Bartholomew
    Dennis Dowd

    Leslie Schneeberger
    Sue Contonio
    Alan McClennen

1. Minutes of January 26, 2010

    Catherine Southworth moved and Dennis Dowd seconded a motion to approve the minutes of January 26, 2010. MOTION PASSED

2. Informal hearing on an application to demolish a portion of a structure at 202 Rock Harbor Road, Orleans, MA. Owners: Jill and Paul Morelli, 42 Harvard Street, Charleston, MA 01129 Applicant: Spring Line Design Build, Leslie Schneeberger 5 Third Street, Harwich, MA 02645

    This application has been approved by the Old Kings Highway Regional Historic District Committee. The application for demolition has the owners' signature included.

    The portion of the building to be demolished is a small porch – a three season room, built perhaps in the 1950's or 1960's. It does not have a foundation. It will be replaced by a structure just a little larger in plan (20'6" X 13'), but 2 stories high.

    Bonnie Snow moved and Dennis Dowd seconded a motion that this part of the building is not a "preferably preserved historic structure," therefore we are not opposed to the demolition. MOTION PASSED

3. Alan McClennan, 50 Bridge Road, former Putnam Farm

    Mr. McClennan presented the Town's plans for preserving Putnam Farm which the Town of Orleans owns. This piece of land is the last farm in this portion of town. It has been farmed for hundreds of years. At the back of the property runs Jeremiah's Gutter, which served as the course of Cape Cod's first canal. It was used in 1717 to allow travel from the bay to the ocean. It was also used during the War of 1812 to elude British blockaders. The farm was purchased in 1957 by the Putnam family for $10,000. Gravel from under the topsoil was used to build the Eastham rotary. There is no house on the property, but there is a restorable barn.

    The preservation goal for the property is to preserve the landscape and its setting by:

        A. Removal of a derelict greenhouse
        B. Restoration of the small barn
        C. Reactivation of the well point
        D. Reactivation of the buried electric line to the barn

E.   Amending the soil with compost from the town dump

The costs of the preservation projects will come from the old Land Bank Program. No money will be used from the CPA.

The purpose of Mr. McClannan's presentation was to obtain the Commission's determination that this is an historic landscape and that its setting should be preserved.

It was moved by Bonnie Snow and seconded by Dennis Dowd that Putnam Farm and Jeremiah's Gutter are important in the history of Orleans and that this landscape should be preserved. Mr. Hadley abstained from the vote (as his wife is working with Mr. McClennen on the plan for the property.) MOTION PASSED

4.   Meeting with the Planning Board

Mr. McClennen stayed for this discussion, at the request of the Chair.

The OHC felt that it was of paramount importance to talk with the Planning Board about inclusion of historic preservation in the plan before the final downtown plan draft is completed. Mr. McClennen shared his experience as planner for the Town of Arlington, MA, where just such a plan was promulgated. He agreed to join a combined OPB/ OHC meeting to discuss the topic and his conclusions from his experiences.

It was agreed that Bonnie Snow will obtain a map of the proposed district from the Orleans Planning Office, and will come up with old photos or inventory forms before we meet. Mr. McClennen noted that he will be away April 12 through 30, the last week in June and first week in July.

5. New Business

Sarah Bartholomew will look up the old records of the proposed East Orleans Main Street Historic.

Catherine Southworth moved and Bonnie Snow seconded a motion to adjourn at 11:15 AM. MOTION PASSED.

Ann Sinclair
Secretary
Cc: Selectmen, Town Mgr., OPB, Building Dept., Town Clerk