

MINUTES

192nd MEETING

**NEW YORK STATE BOARD FOR
HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

June 8, 2023

**Ganondagan State Historic Site: Seneca Art & Culture Center
7000 County Road 41, Victor, NY**

Virtual option for the public via WebEx webinar

The meeting was held in person at Ganondagan State Historic Site: Seneca Art & Culture Center, Victor, New York.

The following people attended the meeting (*denotes remote participation via WebEx):

SRB Members

Doug Perrelli, Chair
Wint Aldrich
Carol Clark
Jay DiLorenzo
Bryan Erwin
Wayne Goodman
Kristin Herron
Erika Krieger
Jennifer Lemak
Gretchen Sorin
Chuck Vandrei

OPRHP Staff

Daniel Bagrow
Virginia Bartos
Jennifer Betsworth
Daniel Boggs
James Carter
Erin Czernecki
Weston Davey*
Molly Donahue*
William Floyd*
Nancy Herter*
Kathy Howe
William Krattinger*
Kathleen LaFrank
Aine Leader-Nagy
Daniel Mackay
Linda Mackey*
Dan McEneny*
Tabitha O'Connell
Derek Rohde*
Bradley Russell*
Mike Schifferli*
Jessica Schreyer*
Robyn Sedgwick*
Sydney Snyder*
Chelsea Towers
Christina Vagvolgyi*
Jessica Vavrsek*
Jennifer Walkowski

Guests

Jeff Bendremer*
Jennifer Bixby*

Christine Bush*
Melissa Cherubino*
Ofer Cohen*
Katie Comeau
Robert Dadras*
Victor Dadras*
Gregory Dietrich*
Joselyn Ferguson
Molly Garfinkel
Bonney Hartley*
Cathy Kaicher
Neil Larson*
N. Lafaver*
Ted Mccague*
Erinn McDonnell*
Caitlin Meives
Tuck Reed*
Brooke Safford*
Rich Schnell*
Zoanne Schnell*
Joseph Van De Loo*
Alexander Whydell*

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Douglas Perrelli at 10:05 a.m. He welcomed everyone to the 192nd meeting of the New York State Board for Historic Preservation. This hybrid meeting included guests both in person and virtually through WebEx. The roll was called, during which the following responded as present and in-person and briefly described their role or function as it relates to their service on this board.

- Douglas Perrelli, Board Chair, Archaeologist, Clinical Assistant Professor of Anthropology, SUNY Buffalo; President of the New York Archaeological Council
- Bryan Erwin: Acting Chair of the State Council of Parks and also Chair of the Long Island State Park Commission.
- Kristin Herron: Program Director for Architecture and Design and Museums at the New York State Council on the Arts
- Wint Aldrich: Historian, former Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation
- Carol Clark: former Deputy Commissioner at NYS Parks, Adjunct Professor of Historic Preservation at Columbia University, Pratt Institute, and the NYU School of Professional Studies
- Wayne Goodman: Executive Director, Landmarks Society of Western New York
- Jay DiLorenzo: President, Preservation League of NYS
- Erika Krieger: Registered Architect representing the NYS Department of State

- Jennifer Lemak**: Chief Curator of History, New York State Museum, State Education Department
- Chuck Vandrei**: Archaeologist, Agency Preservation Officer, Department of Environmental Conservation
- Gretchen Sorin**: Director of the Cooperstown Graduate Program in Museum Studies

There being **seven** members participating, a quorum was confirmed. (** = Arrived late, after the Call to Order, so were not counted until after the initial quorum count was made.)

Approval of Past Minutes

Kathy Howe, board secretary, noted that she had not received any corrections or comments from board members for the draft minutes of the March 9, 2023, State Review Board meeting (191st Meeting). Doug asked board members if they had any comments or questions; there being none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion to approve: Erika Krieger

Second: Kristin Herron

Abstentions: 0

Vote: Recommended 7 in favor, 0 opposed

The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Parrott Hall Presentation

Katie Comeau, Vice President for Policy & Preservation at the Preservation League of New York State gave an overview of the history of Parrott Hall in Geneva followed by Caitlin Meives, Director of Preservation at the Landmark Society of Western New York, who focused on the advocacy, fundraising, and rehabilitation work of the building.

Technical Audio Difficulties: Following the Parrott Hall presentation and discussion, the meeting took a pause for staff to address failing audio issues and do mic checks for the benefit of the WebEx attendees.

WebEx participants reported that they could only hear speakers/presenters who were at the podium and not the board members. Unfortunately, after several tries staff was unable to fix the audio problems and the meeting resumed. Presenters were asked to do their best repeating any questions and comments from the board while at the podium and the board secretary took detailed notes to capture any board discussion and decision. These minutes reflect those efforts.

Nomination Reviews

Chelsea Towers, Survey and National Register Coordinator, thanked everyone for joining us in person today, as well as any guests participating remotely through WebEx, especially nomination sponsors and consultants who have worked tirelessly with our National Register staff to prepare the nominations you will see today.

Nomination 1: Our Lady of Victory Roman Catholic Church Historic District, Lackawanna, Erie County

Presenter: Jennifer Walkowski

Discussion: none

Motion to approve: Doug Perrelli

Second: Chuck Vandrei

Abstentions: 0

Vote: Recommended 11 in favor, 0 opposed

Nomination 2: DL&W Train Shed, Buffalo

Presenter: Jennifer Walkowski

Discussion: Wint asked if passenger trains coming in on the second level would have to back down the track to turn around. Jennifer said that there were no turntables but that there may have been ramps that served that purpose but have since been removed. Carol enthusiastically supported listing of the DL&W Train Shed, adding that the nomination meets the criteria.

Motion to approve: Wint Aldrich

Second: Erika Krieger

Abstentions: 0

Vote: Recommended 11 in favor, 0 opposed

Nomination 3: Wood and Brooks Company Factory Complex, Tonawanda, Erie County

Presenter: Jennifer Walkowski

Jennifer mentioned that this complex has approved Part 1 and 2 commercial tax credit applications from the National Park Service.

Discussion: Doug asked how long the iconic elephant sign stayed up on the building. Jennifer responded that it was removed sometime after the 1970s and many people miss it.

Motion to approve: Carol Clark

Second: Bryan Erwin

Abstentions: 0

Vote: Recommended 11 in favor, 0 opposed

Nomination 4: Lakewood Village Hall, Lakewood, Chautauqua County

Presenter: Jennifer Walkowski

Discussion: Consultant Greg Pinto of Clinton Brown Company Architecture thanked the board for their work and said that this building is important to the local community.

Motion to approve: Erika Krieger

Second: Doug Perrelli

Abstentions: 0

Vote: Recommended 11 in favor, 0 opposed

Nomination 5: Puerto Rican Casitas of New York City, New York and Bronx Counties, Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF)

Presenter: Kath LaFrank

Kath said that the Multiple Property Documentation Form and associated individual nomination being presented today was funded by Underrepresented Communities (URC) Grant that our agency received from the National Park Service in 2015.

This nomination is for the Puerto Rican Casitas of New York City. Kath introduced Molly Garfinkel, the Managing Director of City Lore and the Director of City Lore's Place Matters program, who traveled from New York City to join the meeting in person today. Molly is the heart and soul of this nomination – she is the primary author, photographer, interviewer, researcher, and sketcher of meticulous site maps. She has been working closely with Kath on this project since 2015, when our agency received the URC grant from NPS. The project presented numerous difficulties, including unusual resource types, reluctant participants, language barriers, hurricanes, pandemics, and took seven years to complete due to these challenges.

There are two projects: the first is the context statement itself – known as a Multiple Property Documentation Form - which requires a vote, and the second is an individual nomination for Casita Rincón Criollo in the Bronx.

The casita is a traditional cultural landscape property type associated with Puerto Rican migrant culture in New York City from the period between the 1970s and today. Casitas

are designed landscapes that embody cultural symbols, transmit cultural identity, and serve as sites of ongoing cultural activities. They are among the most visible and symbolic resource types associated with Puerto Rican migration and settlement in the United States during the period of significance, and they are important places where cultural identity is reinforced, and cultural activity practiced and transmitted to new generations. Thus, they also meet the definition of traditional cultural properties.

The development of the urban casita is fundamentally connected to twentieth-century Puerto Rican settlement and displacement patterns, both in Puerto Rico and to and within the United States, beginning with the displacement of agricultural workers on the island, prompting mass migration of these US citizens to New York City, only to find themselves caught up in limited employment opportunities, discrimination, and later, destructive urban renewal policies.

Casitas were first built to combat the stress experienced by the generation who arrived in the 1970s. Tiny gardens bloomed on small, vacant, and abandoned sites that were transformed into personal sanctuaries in response to the need for places to gather and find respite from a harsh and challenging urban environment. Sites were borrowed rather than owned and chosen for availability and proximity to the community. The builders were squatters, who moved from site to site as blighted areas underwent development.

In conceiving the gardens, immigrants were attempting to replicate a small portion of the historic rural landscape of Puerto Rico, and some of their features have antecedents in the Puerto Rican vernacular. Each casita combines a strong formal continuity, with informal and individual expression. Although they are fragile and ephemeral by nature, casitas occupy a persistent place in the urban landscape, are continually renewed and rebuilt, and remain constant sites of cultural activity.

Physically, all casitas are characterized by a consistent set of features, and they are shaped through the creative use of everyday materials. Each is a small urban garden enclosed by a fence and divided into zones for different activities. Each includes a casita de madera (little wooden house), a batey (or courtyard), garden plots, and circulation systems, both formal and informal. Casitas include various patios for eating, multiple sitting areas, separate cooking areas (fogón), areas to cultivate flowering plants and produce (usually in raised beds), and areas for storage. Other features include a bandstand or entertainment space, tangible expressions of faith, such as shrines or devotional displays, murals and folk art, and prominent displays of the Puerto Rican flag. They may have more or fewer features depending on the size of the lot; but they all follow the same typology. One of the most important aspects of their significance is that they are places where traditional cultural activities take place and where traditions are passed on

There were at least 100 known casitas, primarily in the major Puerto Rican settlement areas: East Harlem (El Barrio), the South Bronx, and the Lower East Side (Loisaida). They have been surveyed several times since the 1980s, and their number has

decreased with each count. More than 30 have been lost since 1988. Our survey found twenty-eight extant casitas, of which only eighteen could be fully documented. An additional ten were identified but their stewards either declined to participate in these surveys or were unreachable. The Puerto Rican casitas are a rare, fragile property type – and most are threatened by intense development. Most are now owned by NYC Parks, which, although not entirely committed to preserving them, is very supportive of the nomination for Rincón Criollo

Kath concluded with a quote that expresses the strength of the relationship between casita members and their gardens. An observer claims that the casitas actually *become* the homeland for some of their members; he says: “When the seniors come here, they think they’re in Puerto Rico...they put their chairs facing away from the street with a view into the garden. And then they say: “We’re in Puerto Rico now”

Discussion: Wint asked what the water source was for these gardens. Molly Garfinkel responded that they used to hook into fire hydrants and, with permission, hook into a neighbor’s water source. She also said that they used rain barrels to collect water for the gardens. The casitas usually have porta potties.

Motion to approve: Wint Aldrich

Second: Wayne Goodman

Abstentions: 0

Vote: Recommended 11 in favor, 0 opposed

Nomination 6: Casita Rincón Criollo, Bronx County

Presenter: Kath LaFrank

Casita Rincón Criollo is located in the Melrose neighborhood of the South Bronx, at the corner of Third Ave and East 157th Street. Rincón Criollo was established in 1976 and was originally located one block to the north, on a similar site at the corner of Third Avenue and East 158th Street. However, in 2006, the city claimed the original lot for redevelopment, which is a very typical occurrence for casitas – don’t forget that these little gardens started popping up amidst the ruins of the South Bronx in the 1970s, and so reclaiming and redeveloping their sites – many for affordable housing - has always been a priority for the city, and it remains so today.

However, when this casita was threatened, community members were able to secure another lot and relocate their garden to the current site – chosen to be as close and as similar to the original as possible. The built features were modeled after and constructed in a manner similar to the originals, reusing some of the same materials, such as parts of the foundation, joists, and rafters, as well as dirt, bricks, plants, and fruit trees, all moved to the new site, including a special apple tree, which failed to survive, but which has been preserved as a trellis for vines. Because casitas are fragile, ephemeral, and *unlikely* to be protected, we addressed this situation in the registration requirements for the MPDF, saying that a moved casita could be eligible if it

was moved in order to preserve it, if it was rebuilt on a similar site within one of the Puerto Rican settlement areas, and if it retains all of the character-defining features of a casita, and this one meets those requirements. Given the fragile nature of the materials, many of which could not survive a move, we also said that a moved casita could employ new materials and still be eligible. In this case, they moved as many things as they could and tried hard to replicate the rest. The new casita has now served the community in this location for eighteen years, and it's actually one of the oldest and longest surviving

Rincón Criollo is also important because it is known as “La Casita de Chema,” after its founder, Jose Manuel Soto, or “Chema,” who was a well-known member of the community and a master casita builder. It is especially important because it is the center of the traditional Puerto Rican music revival in New York City and the most important place where the renaissance of two traditional Afro-Puerto Rican genres, bomba and plena, is taking place and where the tradition is being very actively passed on. Therefore, it is an important traditional cultural property.

Discussion:

Wint said that the oral history part of this nomination is outstanding.

Kristin asked about the 2006 period of significance for the nomination and why it did not go back to the 1976 founding date at the previous location. Kath said that under National Register rules that a moved property can only be significant within its current location.

Carol said that she enthusiastically supports the MPDF and this individual nomination, which are well-written and thorough documents. These documents fulfill the NR criteria. She also mentioned that she has had experience with NYC's Operation Green Thumb program.

Molly Garfinkel thanked the board for their consideration of these nominations, which have been a labor of love for almost thirteen years. She said that it feels like a dream to even be considered. Molly mentioned that the 66th annual Puerto Rican parade in NYC is taking place this weekend; the organizers expect to have over one million in attendance; and Rincón Criollo will be a host for events this weekend. This casita is one of the venues for the revival of traditional bomba and plena music and many young people from Puerto Rico are very excited about its revival.

Carol said hats off to Place Matters (a program of City Lore) and there was applause from the board and the audience.

Gretchen was wondering if this casita will become a NYC park. Molly said that in the 1990s some garden and casita lots were auctioned but, in response, a number were taken off the development list and rezoned into designated open spaces, including Rincón Criollo. While in theory Rincón Criollo could be developed, thanks to the

amount of love, support, and reverence for it that redevelopment would be extremely unlikely. She feels that it is mostly out of danger of being redeveloped.

Gretchen said that it would make a nice addition to the city's Historic House Trust program.

Motion to approve: Carol Clark

Second: Gretchen Sorin

Abstentions: 0

Vote: Recommended 11 in favor, 0 opposed

Nomination 7: Papscaenee Island Historic District, Castleton-on-Hudson Vicinity, Rensselaer County

Presenter: Kath LaFrank

The Papscaenee Island Historic District is just south of the city of Rensselaer on the east side of the Hudson River, and if you travel south on Amtrak, you traverse its eastern edge. This nomination is sponsored by the Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians and was prepared by Jeff Bendremer, its Tribal Historic Preservation Officer. It was funded by an Underrepresented Community Grant from the National Park Service. This is a truly extraordinary property. It is believed to be one of the two most important archeological sites in NYS [Ft. Niagara being the other].

The district is a nearly 600-acre cultural landscape encompassing the historic boundaries of Papscaenee and Cuyper Islands as they would have existed in the seventeenth century, the primary period documented in the nomination.

Papscaenee Island is one of the last and most pristine remnants of the cultural/ historic landscape of the middle Hudson Valley. The nomination is significant under all four criteria. It is associated with the pre-contact history of native Americans; early European exploration and settlement; the interactions between native peoples and Europeans, and the impacts on both groups; it was the center of the traditional Mohican homeland; it was the home of Papscaenee, an important Mohican political leader; it contains more than twenty prehistoric and historic sites representing both native American and Dutch culture; and it has a New World Dutch farmhouse and a settlement period cemetery.

While it is difficult to explain 2,000 years of history in five minutes, the main highlights of this deep history were presented.

At the time of European contact, Mohicans had been living in the Hudson River Valley for innumerable generations. The map shown in this presentation is of the Mohican territory in the early seventeenth century. The large collection of prehistoric and historic archeological sites within this district has the potential to yield substantial information about Mohican lifeways – their culture as a sovereign nation prior to the colonial period,

their settlement patterns, subsistence systems, political and social organization, maize agriculture, and social and organizational changes associated with early contact with Europeans. The sites associated with Papscanee, an important historical figure, present an opportunity to study historic events and social/political/ethnic dynamics that affected the broad patterns of colonization in New York and the experiences of Native Americans and Europeans during this formative period in New York's history.

The map shown in the presentation gives you the idea of what happened after the Dutch came up the Hudson to settle Fort Orange in 1624, and by 1670, they were everywhere - "Rensselaerswyck," which is imprinted over the island - is the million-acre manor that Kiliaen Van Rensselaer acquired in 1631; and he purchased land on and around Papscanee island from the important Mohican Sachem Papscanee and from his heirs. Just above the words "Old anchorage" was the overslaugh, the sand bar where the Dutch ships waited for the tide to come in - and from here the Dutch could see how luscious, flat, and fertile Papscanee island was; how it had already been cleared for cultivation by the Mohicans; and how it would be perfect for the wheat they had been sent here to grow. Their presence - especially so near Ft. Orange - was also advantageous for the Mohicans, who were interested in trade with the Europeans. Van Rensselaer's agents bought the island from Papscanee's heirs in 1637, and at least six Van Rensselaer farms were established on the island immediately - [but, of course, it wasn't the Dutch themselves who farmed this land, it was the African slaves they brought with them, and that's a new bit of research - we documented eight enslaved people on each of two of the island farms, and we hope to expand that context in the future]. But after the Dutch arrived, the Mohican presence on the island gradually diminished and they disappeared by the late seventeenth century

Today, more than two-thirds of the island is still farmed, and it is some of the oldest continuously farmed land in NYS. Scholars believe that it looks as it did to the Dutch settlers and the Mohicans before them. The Stockbridge Munsees own one-third of the island, which is a nature preserve, and while there is industrial development at the northern end, over 80 percent of it remains undeveloped. We have included the developed area because due to the large amount of fill and the substantial and repeated flooding that the island experienced, archaeologists believe that there are sites located deep below the disturbance in this portion of the island.

The Joachim Staats House is included in the nomination boundaries. The Staats family acquired this land from the Van Rensselaers in 1696. The house was built in three parts - the stone portion around 1700 and the wing to the right about 1830. The original main entrance to the stone wing is now concealed by the brick addition.

The frame wing is the final addition, from the 1880s; these entrances access the basement. This house has a traditional Dutch framing system, with a series of parallel heavy timber bents, but it also has a center hall dividing the main rooms on the parlor floor. In this it reflects both the persistence of Dutch culture after the English took over New York and the wealth and status of this particular family. This house was listed on

the NR in 1978– but we added additional context because we know more about Dutch architecture now.

And finally, the Staats family cemetery, where there are burials from 1707 to 2022. The Staats family still owns this property after 300 years. [The house and cemetery remain individually listed but now they also contribute to the larger district]

This is Bonnie Hartley, the Tribal Historic Preservation Manager for the Stockbridge Munsee, and Sherry White, the Tribal Council Liaison, at the nature preserve. For the contemporary Mohican people, Papscaanee Island exemplifies their persistent and ongoing connection to their traditional homeland. They consider Papscaanee Island to be a resource of the utmost historic, spiritual, and cultural significance. Jeff specifically included the perspective of living members of the tribe in the nomination so that the meaning and significance that they ascribed to this place would be recognized and validated by the National Register listing. Kath concluded with just a few of those quotes:

My soul feels a connection to the original lands out east. Whenever I go there I feel at home and know this is where I am from in my soul.

... Anyone I talk to who has been to our homeland states pretty much the same thing, HOME. They have this calm and relaxing feeling along with sadness sometimes but they feel they are not walking alone when they are in the area.

Having the opportunity to stand on the island and offer a prayer for the ones who walked before us in our original homeland was beyond amazing. As we prayed, again the eagles came [and] circled until we were done with our prayer and tobacco offering. What I have been taught is those eagles are the messengers who carry those prayers and energy to and from the spirits.

Discussion:

Dr. Jeff Bendremer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer of the Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians and author of the nomination, thanked the board for considering the nomination and all of the work that went into documenting this extraordinary place. The place is not only important for its Dutch history but, to the Stockbridge-Munsee Community, this is one of their top five most significant historic places. Jeff said that the tribe has invested in a substantial portion of the island to own and share with the public as a nature preserve. It has numerous archaeological sites, twenty of which have Native American components. The island and its sites are important to understanding the history of the region and the history of the United States. He said that it is important that the tribe tell its story and for the historic district to be recognized by the United States and the State of New York.

Kathy Howe reported on the letters of objection and letters of support for the nomination. She reminded the board members that Chelsea had provided them with

copies of these letters in advance of today's meeting. Kathy said that she received a total of ten letters of objection from property owners and one letter of support from owners.

Kathy said that three of the property owners felt that their parcels lacked historic and archaeological resources due to long-time industrial development. Two of the property owners, who farm their land and would like to keep it in agricultural use in perpetuity, were concerned about the attention that listing would bring to the property, fearing that it would bring in trespassers and increase their liability. Some of the property owners said that the draft nomination was not made available to them in a timely fashion to allow them a reasonable opportunity for review and comment. One owner said that he did not receive our notification letter and had only heard of the proposed nomination by a neighbor.

The letters of support came from Jack Conway, Supervisor of the Town of East Greenbush, and Craig Kroening Jr., Vice President of the Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians. Supervisor Conway is also an anthropologist who has taught classes in Native American studies at Skidmore College and the University at Albany. He wrote that this nomination is an issue of cultural respect, historical respect, and human respect for the Stockbridge-Munsee community.

Kathy noted that there was some confusion as to the actual total number of property owners in the district due to LLCs and that, moving forward, we will have the agency's real estate experts do research regarding ownership so that we can get a correct count.

Doug asked Kath what the level of significance was for the nomination. Kath replied that it is currently noted as locally significant. Doug said that it should rise above the local level and, at least, meet the state level. He recommended that national significance be explored. He added that it was rare to have a nomination possess all four criteria. He said that he appreciated the inclusion of oral history and contemporary voices in the nomination.

Wint said that he was transfixed by this nomination that was so well crafted and researched by the THPO. He said that it that was so magnificently prepared that it almost brought tears to his eyes. He congratulated the THPO on his work.

Chuck agreed with the points that Doug brought up.

Gretchen asked if any of the land within the district is publicly owned such as the nature preserve. Jeff responded that the nature preserve is owned by the Tribe so it is not publicly owned but it is open to the public to visit. Gretchen wondered if there is any concern about people coming onto the property with metal detectors to seek buried artifacts. Jeff responded that they are absolutely concerned about this issue. He noted that the European contact sites are the sites that are most prone to metal detector searches. He added that archaeologist Paul Huey has said they are the oldest intact Dutch sites in the state of New York.

Daniel apologized for the challenges with the audio at today's meeting. He acknowledged that this is an exceptional nomination, as the board's comments have recognized. He also noted that it presents a complexity of land ownership. Before the board considers what action to take he said that he first wanted to present some background for their consideration.

Daniel said that the protocols for owner notification are long established by OPRHP and NPS. We use tax roll information for notification which can get complicated when there are LLCs involved. In this case, there were some general challenges with the public notification process reaching key decision makers and owners of these properties, especially for landowners with industrial holdings. The tax roll might provide a general address at a corporate office which may not get to the key decision-maker of that business. Suffice it to say, it is worth recognizing the complexity of this issue in terms of land ownership and public outreach.

We sent out our #1 notification letters to property owners sixty days prior to today's board meeting. The standard language in our #1 notification letter states that the draft nomination would be made available thirty days prior to the board meeting but we failed to publicly post the draft nomination at that point. We used incorrect procedural language and correspondence, thereby falling short of our obligation to make the draft nomination publicly available at the thirty-day point. The failure of our agency to not make the nomination publicly available to the owners to allow them a reasonable opportunity for review and comment was pointed out to us by one of the property owners at the thirty-day mark and other landowners later reiterated this in their correspondence with us.

While that same property owner asked that we pull the nomination from today's agenda Daniel said that he made the decision to proceed with presenting it to the board for discussion. Pulling the nomination from the agenda would have been a disservice to the Stockbridge-Munsee as it would have jeopardized the terms of the National Park Service's Underrepresented Communities Grant that the tribe received to fund the nomination. It was important that it be presented to the board to stay on schedule with the Tribe's grant agreement with NPS.

In light of all of these facts, Daniel recommended that the board table their vote on this nomination until the September meeting. The three months will give us time to establish a set of meetings for the landowners to engage with our National Register staff. We would like to make the case that National Register listing does not change compliance issues that have been in place since the eligibility in 2009. You all have received copies of the letters of objections and support from the property owners. Again, our intent is to bring this nomination back to the board in September. Daniel asked the board to give staff time to address language in future outreach correspondence by making the draft nomination available earlier and to address owner objections.

Doug said that as chair of the board he agrees with Daniel's suggestion that we table the nomination and do more public outreach effort on what listing means to the property owners. He said that we need to work on getting the maximum number of owners to support the nomination.

Wint agreed that it is important to inform the objectors what National Register listing means but also what it does not mean. Perhaps the district possesses more than just local significance and this should be considered over the next few months. He added that several of the board members feel that this district rises above local significance and that a higher level of significance should be emphasized in the public discussion.

Doug suggested that a motion be made to table the nomination until the September State Review Board meeting to give time to do more research to raise the level of significance to the state or national level. Kristin added that we should also be sure to include in that motion that we will hold a public meeting with the property owners as well.

Jennifer made the motion to table the nomination until the September State Review Board to allow time to do research to raise the level of significance to the state or national level and to communicate with the property owners through outreach.

Motion to table until September SRB meeting: Jennifer Lemak

Second: Wint Aldrich

Abstentions: 0

Vote: 11 in favor of tabling the nomination, 0 opposed.

Nomination 8: All Souls' Church Summer Camp Historic District, Parksville, Sullivan County

Presenter: Erin Czernecki

Discussion: Gretchen said that this is a very important historic site. She added that the words "inner city" are racist and should be cut from the nomination. Doug asked if there are any plans for development of the property. Erin said that the Part 2 tax credit application has not been received so we do not know what might be planned for the property.

Motion to approve: Gretchen Sorin

Second: Wint Aldrich

Abstentions: 0

Vote: Recommended 11 in favor, 0 opposed

Nomination 9: The Alpine, Hunter, Greene County

Presenter: Erin Czernecki

Discussion: Doug said that this building appears to be in poor condition. Erin said that it is a rehabilitation tax credit project and that it has an approved Part 1.

Motion to approve: Wayne Goodman

Second: Bryan Erwin

Abstentions: 0

Vote: Recommended 11 in favor, 0 opposed

Nomination 10: Bates Christian Church, Town of Broome, Schoharie County

Presenter: Erin Czernecki

Erin said that this is an honorary nomination. She read the following comments from Linda Mormile who is from the current church congregation and is the sponsor of the nomination:

We are ecstatic that the Bates Christian Church has made it to candidacy for Historic Preservation. Stepping in our church feels like stepping back in time. The pews, lighting and fixtures, etc. remain intact. It is the home of weddings, random services, and an annual Christmas program that allows the congregation to feel they have stepped back in time. The entire community is proud of our little church and would be thrilled to hear it has been placed on the historic register.

Discussion: none

Motion to approve: Erika Krieger

Second: Gretchen Sorin

Abstentions: 0

Vote: Recommended 11 in favor, 0 opposed

Nomination 11: Camp Veery, Town of Webb, Herkimer County

Presenter: Erin Czernecki

Discussion: Erika asked what an “honorary” nomination is. Erin responded that there is no tax credit project involved here at this time. She said that the nomination was put forward to simply recognize the historic significance of the property.

Motion to approve: Doug Perrelli

Second: Kristin Herron

Abstentions: 0

Vote: Recommended 11 in favor, 0 opposed

Nomination 12: Kessel Park Inn, Chesterfield, Essex County

Presenter: Dan Bagrow

Discussion: Doug asked if the signal tower is just a radio tower. Dan that the tower was originally used as a marine signal tower for the owner's boats but now it is just a radio tower.

Motion to approve: Gretchen Sorin

Second: Jennifer Lemak

Abstentions: 0

Vote: Recommended 11 in favor, 0 opposed

Nomination 13: Clark Witbeck Co. Warehouse, Schenectady, Schenectady County

Presenter: Dan Bagrow

Discussion: Doug appreciates that the historic context of this nomination goes back 1,200 years.

Motion to approve: Jay DiLorenzo

Second: Carol Clark

Abstentions: 0

Vote: Recommended 11 in favor, 0 opposed

Nomination 14: Halfway House, Lisbon, St. Lawrence County

Presenter: Dan Bagrow

Following his presentation Dan read the following written comments from property owner Jennifer Bixby:

My husband and I purchased the property known as Halfway House in 1976. We called it our Bicentennial project, knowing full well it would take many more years to restore. I fell in love with this property at first sight, even though it was a shambles. What I saw was a virgin house virtually untouched by human hands for the last 169 years, thus retaining an incredible number of original details and millwork. We had trouble getting a mortgage due to the deteriorating condition of the house, but finally one bank took a chance on us and called us "unusual buyers"! Henceforth every time something crashed or fell apart Joel and I looked at each other and said "unusual buyers." It takes a sense of humor to take on a huge project like this, but we did and we persisted until it went from shambles to showplace, retaining its original footprint at each step. This has always been a local landmark. We have been asked twice to open our home for fund raisers, both of which were highly successful due to curiosity on the public's part. One of our motives for listing it on the Registers is to provide some form of protection from the encroaching NYS Route 68 on which it is located. So here we are approaching another national milestone, the Semi

Quincentennial, and our fondest hope is that this property survives another 250 years. Thank you for your consideration.

Discussion: Wint asked if there was any evidence of this property having a stable for travelers' horses. Dan responded that no evidence for that has come to light yet.

Motion to approve: Kristin Herron

Second: Wint Aldrich

Abstentions: 0

Vote: Recommended 11 in favor, 0 opposed

Nomination 15: Webutuck Agricultural Valley Historic District, Amenia, Dutchess County

Presenter: Jennifer Betsworth

Following her presentation Jennifer shared the following comments from Sharon Daniel Kroeger, Coordinator of the Amenia Union Circle, Tree, and Flag Fund, which sponsored the nomination:

Toward the end of the 1980's, as the Town of Amenia was working on its Master Plan, a subcommittee began to describe some of the unique qualities of the farmland and antique hamlets of what was often called the Lower Oblong. A "Comprehensive Mini Plan for the Oblong Valley" was written up and attached as an appendix to the Amenia Master Plan of 1990. Shortly thereafter the local Oblong Valley Association published copies of a good-sized local map entitled The Oblong Valley, which showed the locations of 40 early homes, structures, and sites built during the 18th and 19th centuries. These materials were brought up to SHPO subsequently, and we were urged to consider doing a State recognized Historical District. Subsequently, the later Comprehensive Plan of 2008 additionally clarified the importance of the quality soils and agricultural lands in this special Webutuck River Valley with its three hundred-year-old hamlets, all settled before there was any discussion of where the Connecticut State Line would eventually be drawn. With that encouragement, our small civic organization moved ahead to work with Neil Larson, who has helped to develop our application.

Discussion: Wint said that this is the third nomination that the board has reviewed from this area.

Motion to approve: Wint Aldrich

Second: Wayne Goodman

Abstentions: 0

Vote: Recommended 11 in favor, 0 opposed

Nomination 16: St. James Firehouse, St. James, Suffolk County

Presenter: Jennifer Betsworth

Discussion: none

Motion to approve: Bryan Erwin

Second: Doug Perrelli

Abstentions: 0

Vote: Recommended 11 in favor, 0 opposed

Nomination 17: Hammondsport Historic District, Urbana, Steuben County

Presenter: Dan Boggs

Discussion: Wint said that there was once a railroad line that was still operating in Hammondsport when the earlier historic district was established in the village. Dan said that while the railroad line is now gone a small depot remains.

Kristin asked what was nature of the objection letter that we received. Dan responded that it was a homeowner that did not want their house listed but that the owner did not give a reason behind their objection.

Motion to approve: Wayne Goodman

Second: Wint Aldrich

Abstentions: 0

Vote: Recommended 11 in favor, 0 opposed

Nomination 18: Fairview Manor, Claverack, Columbia County

Presenter: James Carter

Discussion: Wint asked if we were saying that the house is attributed to Vaux. James responded that we believe that Vaux was, indeed, involved with the design of the building based on evidence that was provided by consultant Neil Larson.

Motion to approve: Erika Krieger

Second: Bryan Erwin

Abstentions: 0

Vote: Recommended 11 in favor, 0 opposed

Following the National Register nominations, the State Review Board members took a tour of the WAMPUM/OTGOÅ exhibition led by Ansley Jemison, Cultural Liaison at Ganondagan State Historic Site. The exhibition featured important objects on loan from the Musée du Quai Branly in Paris, wampum belts from the Rochester Museum and

Science Center, and contemporary works by Haudenosaunee artists. The exhibition is the culmination of 300 years of European contact.

Deputy Commissioner's Report, Daniel Mackay

Agency and Bureau Budgets

The agency was well-awarded by the SFY 2023-24 enacted state budget. The agency's capital plan was funded at just over \$200 million annually, with out-year commitments of \$200 million annually. Our approved full-time staffing level was increased to 2,374 full-time/annual positions, an approved permanent staffing level not experienced since before the staff reductions of 2009. This is an increase of 287 positions over the previous year and DHP will be a direct beneficiary. The agency's hiring freeze was lifted last year, meaning we can hire as vacancies are created by retirement, promotion, or otherwise, without specific approval from the governor's office.

The enacted budget also implements the \$4.2 billion Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act. From these funds, OPRHP will be advanced funds for our newest state park, Sojourner Truth, in Kingston, Ulster County. The agency will be administering grants and open space projects in municipalities across the state, focused on disadvantaged communities.

In total – and across many other budget details I am skimming past – Commissioner Kulleseid has noted that this continuing, record support from the Governor and Legislature launches OPRHP into its next one hundred years in historic fashion.

The Division for Historic Preservation saw an increase in our operating budget, programming funds for State Historic Sites, and has – and will be – the beneficiary of staffing awards.

Staff updates

Tabitha O'Connell joins the Survey and National Register unit from their previous position with Preservation Buffalo Niagara. Dan Bagrow has moved from the Survey and NR unit to our Interpretive unit.

Michelle O'Clair joins us from the State Library and now provides administrative support to the NR unit. Soon to join our staff are a third graphic designer who will work in support of exhibit design and development for the Bureau of Historic Sites, as well as an administrative support position for the Bureau of Historic Sites.

Our maintenance and security team at our Peebles facilities continues to grow and we owe these staff a particular thanks for their constant, on-site presence during COVID and all they did to support the many adaptations and adjustments program staff has had to make these recent years. Now they are busy reconfiguring our floor plan and office spaces to accommodate new hires.

BHS Capital Plan

The Bureau of Historic Sites was allocated \$5 million in SFY 23-24 funds to continue to undertake construction and design projects specifically in the State Historic Site system. I will share more details about the plan for these funds at the September meeting.

With over \$8 million in capital spending authority this past year, the Bureau, under the leadership of Bureau Director Greg Smith and with the critical support of Erin Maroney, advanced significant projects through design and construction. Highlights include the stabilization of the Schoharie Aqueduct, the roof replacement at the French Barracks at Old Fort Niagara, the stabilization and remediation work at the Susan B. Anthony site in Greenwich, the roof replacement at the Crown Point Visitor Center, and the completion of the fire suppression system installations at Jay Homestead and Grants Cottage. New exhibits were installed at Washington's Headquarters and Clermont State Historic Sites.

A particular note for the Division – the capital plan commits transformational funding to John Jay Homestead State Historic Site in Katonah. The agency just awarded a programming and design contract to a highly qualified team led by Beyer Blinder Belle which will guide interior and exterior restoration of the house and existing orientation and exhibition spaces, as well as plan significant utility upgrades, scope restoration, and reuse of other structures, such as the Brick Cottage, relocate the entrance drive to its historic location, and design a new archival and exhibition space for potential future construction. Friends of John Jay have been extensively involved in advocating for this funding commitment, are making critical contributions to house finishes (period wallpaper, carpeting, and other floor finishes), and are designing the addition of new educational space at this site. The site will be a centerpiece of the agency's commemoration of the Revolutionary War and graduated manumission. The house and orientation space, along with other improvements, will re-open before July 2026.

Additionally, I want to report that construction of a new visitor and orientation space at Olana SHS is underway, with completion targeted for summer 2024. Completion of new parking and drainage at the barn complex is nearing completion.

Pending Grants

The Division applied for funding for the Senate House SHS house restoration and museum building upgrades through the NPS Semiquincentennial Grant program. Award notice is imminent.

Awarded Grants: NY SHPO received \$294,000 in awards for re-grant from the NPS Maritime Heritage Grant program. We are finalizing contract details and expect to launch this program soon to award both capital and educational program funds.

Staff at the Division organized our bi-annual State Historic Sites Conference for historic site managers and staff, along with BHS, DHP, and Executive Staff participation.

Lavada Nahon, our Interpreter of African American History, and Meredith Sorin Horsford, the new director of the Historic House Trust in NYC, delivered keynote remarks.

The Statewide Preservation Conference was hosted by the City of Auburn, attracting over 200 participants from around the state. This conference receives significant underwriting from the Certified Local Government program allocation received by our office. The Landmark Society of Western New York and the Preservation League of New York State, both represented on this board, are critical organizers and contributors to this conference. The 2024 conference will be in Rochester and I believe there are plans to host the 2025 conference in eastern New York.

Agency Master Planning

- Clermont SHS – nearly completed
- John Brown Farm SHS – underway
- Nissequogue River State Park and Tag

Land Acquisition

- Land acquisition at Newtown Battlefield
- Land acquisition at Fort Crailo SHS

Commemorative Planning

- Parks Centennial (2024) – significant resources will be devoted
- Revolutionary War (2024-2026) - connects to about fifty sites in our agency
- Graduated Manumission (2027) - four of our sites have a manumission narrative
- Erie Canal Completion (2025) – four of our parks relate to Erie Canal stories

Things are busy and the energy is very positive at the agency. DHP is undertaking quality work that is expanding the width and depth of what we do and shows the public how impactful our staff and programs are. We have the support of executive staff and are in a strong place right now.

Wint asked if it would be appropriate for the board to find a way to say thank you to the executive staff or elected officials for the support they are providing to our work. Daniel responded that the board is welcome to undertake such an action. Bryan shared that the State Council on Parks does a good job reminding executive staff and elected officials of the good work going on in our parks. Daniel added that the profile of the work within the agency has never been higher.

New Business

Agency Proxies

Kathy said that a question came up from one of our state proxies on whether or not we could have more than one designated proxy per state agency serving on the State Review Board. She said that this option would be helpful especially when we are at risk

of not having enough members present to make a quorum, say, for example, if someone is sick and cannot attend. She checked with counsel's office who, after reviewing our law, said that there is no statutory limit regarding the number of proxies per agency. All we would need is a letter from the state agency commissioner to Daniel designating a second qualified proxy that meets the required education and experience.

Upcoming Meetings

Kathy said that the next SRB is on September 7th at Philipse Manor Hall in Yonkers. The December 4th SRB meeting will likely be held at Peebles Island.

Annual Preservation Awards

Kathy noted that normally we have our annual preservation awards ceremony on the same day as the December SRB meeting but we have made the decision to move the awards to May (2024), which is Preservation Month. The awards will be held at the statewide preservation conference to take place in Rochester. If board members have any ideas for awards please share them with staff for consideration. Josalyn Ferguson of NYS DEC asked if there might be a possibility to honor the award winners who received awards during the pandemic and missed out on an in-person ceremony. Kathy said that we could consider this idea with the awards committee

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Chuck and seconded by Jennifer. The motion was carried by unanimous consent and the meeting was adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by board secretary Kathy Howe.