

CITIZENS' IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

April 19, 2022, at 9AM

Rev. 5/1/2022

MEETING REPORT

Meeting Called by: Shawna Bonshak, Chair

Committee Members: Oksana Fuller (R) Doug Finch Chuck Oyler (R)
Shawna Bonshak Sarah Reynolds Patti Venezia
Tom Schwartz Sal Pietropaolo (R)

Secretary: Kimberly Burkard

Guests: Lief HerrGessell Saralinda Hooker (R) Dick McCaughey
Karen DeMay

R=Remote

CALL TO ORDER

- Ms. Bonshak opened the meeting at 9:00AM and greeted guests.

NEW BUSINESS

- **History Team and Cemetery Update**
 - Saralinda Hooker and Lief HerrGessell will be reporting.
 - Ms. Hooker said that the History Team had met with the Ontario County Historical Society (OCHS) a few weeks ago. OCHS staff includes: Executive Director Cody Grabhorn, Curator Wilma Townsend, and Director of Education Ben Falter. The History Team and the OCHS plan to collaborate more in the future.
 - The History Team has two goals: 1.) Preserves & Protect, 2.) Educate
 - One of the things the History Team has done, via grant support, is to get a survey/overview of the town and a detailed list of Historic properties (2018–2019). A second grant (current) is letting them continue with follow-on work.
 - Ms. Hooker mentioned 2019 work that included asking owners of historic properties if they had historical significance.
 - The History Team documents historic buildings that are slated for demolition. Many of these buildings are in the lake front area. They collect/take photos, clippings, historic maps, and any other pertinent information of the property. They make a digital file and give a copy to both the OCHS and the Development Office.
 - In 2018 the History Team had a table at the Open House event in the Highway Building.

- At the end of the first grant, the History Team held a public program in Cheshire about the results of the grant supported work.
- The History Team contributes articles to the town's monthly e-newsletters.
- The History Team's webpage (on the Town's website) has a lot of information and resources and they are responsible for the historic steamboat photos and maps in Town Hall.
- The History Team helped to create the Hunn Cemetery map and flyer. They are currently working on something similar for Academy Cemetery.
- The History Team is currently working new kiosk project for Onanda Park. This is in cooperation with the ECB and Parks & Rec. The updated kiosk will have new panels—history, natural history, and a new park map. Digital content that is accessed via QR blocks on the new panels is in process. They anticipate people to access this via smart devices while on the trails/in the park. They hope to be complete by this summer.
- Projects still being worked on:
 - Farming (not much done yet)
 - History Trail w/ interpretive markers (Cheshire plus Lake). They did do a Cheshire Walking tour but it is digital and needs improvement.
 - Driving Tour w/ Bristol & Naples. Preston Pierce/Canandaigua Lady did this once for an event. Perhaps this can be revived.
- The Team has been trying to get younger people involved. They held an evening meeting but didn't attract more.
- Mr. McCaughey made note of historic entities and potential for effort: County Poorhouse & Asylum, Cemetery on Co Rd 48. He also made mention of Notre Dame which was in recent newspaper articles:
 - https://www.fltimes.com/news/notre-dame-retreat-house-to-close-in-august-2023/article_ce82a244-48e5-57fb-a387-c1e6930756db.html
 - <https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2022/04/18/notre-dame-retreat-house-canandaigua-ny-to-close/7303449001/>
 - Ms. Hooker commented that the statue and building should be documented because they are likely to change.
- Mr. Finch thanked the History Team and Ms. Hooker for their efforts and for working to make history come alive.
- Ms. Hooker noted that the demolition of historic places is hard and an on-going loss. She noted the Red Cedar Lodge which was documented. It was a chapel and then a home. She also noted another home which the owner changed their mind on the demolition and will keep it as a cottage.
- Ms. Hooker asked if the History Team should have a booth at the Ontario County Fair. Mr. Finch noted that the Ag Team does that.
- Ms. Hooker also said that Ray Henry is looking to create a museum of historical farm equipment but needs a location, ideally a barn.
- Ms. Fuller made mention of the Cheshire Theatre and Meeting Hall. Mr. HerrGessell noted that the Cheshire building has an organization that protects and manages it.
- Mr. HerrGessell gave the cemetery update.
- The Ordinance Committee has passed the proposed law to the Town Board and it will be voted on in the May meeting.
- He said that there are eight historic cemeteries in the town. Ray Henry worked on Hunn Cemetery and that there is on-going headstone maintenance.
- Mr. Schwartz asked what NY State requires for maintenance. Mr. HerrGessell said that the municipality must mow three times per year and that the town more than meets the State's requirements. Mr. HerrGessell noted that the cemeteries are well

maintained and that there is preservation headstones including town founders like the Zadock Hunn family.

- There are eight cemeteries plus two others—Wolverton Cemetery is privately owned land and Pinebank Cemetery which still has an association managing it. The proposed Cemetery Committee would oversee the eight cemeteries and will answer to the Town Board and will work with town staff.
- The committee will also see to the mowing contract and tree removal/maintenance (via Parks & the Highway Dept.).
- The Town Historian will be Ex Officio to the committee.
- Mr. McCaughey noted he was a Woodlawn Cemetery Trustee.
- Mr. HerrGessell noted that as the “association” associated with the cemeteries went away, they became town property and that they are historic resources. He also noted there are many veteran graves in the cemeteries and the town has made investments in Hunn Cemetery to fix it up.
- Mr. McCaughey noted that some existing family plots may not be included in the list.
- Mr. HerrGessell commented that Academy Cemetery is of a different era (from Hunn). He also noted that there are trees needing to be taken down there and that there are volunteers to rake. The Tree Team will review the trees in May and look for invasive species and what species should be planted there.
- Ms. DeMay, Doug Stone (Woodlawn Cemetery), and Jim Johnson (of Johnson Funeral Home and has a personal connection to people in a town cemetery) are interested in being on the committee.
- Internments only still occur in Academy Cemetery. Jean Chrisman is the contact for those. Ms. Reynolds noted that Pinebank also still has internments.
- Mr. McCaughey noted a figure of 60% are cremations instead of burials and that you can have 3–4 urns per gravesite. He also noted that cemetery regulations are getting more complex and that a committee is needed.
- Ms. Bonshak noted that the Cemetery Committee will also be active in looking for grants to support cemetery activities.
- Mr. Schwartz asked if Pinebank Cemetery has an endowment as it would be good to know about any funds as well as the need to charge appropriately to cover in-perpetuity costs. Mr. HerrGessell noted raising costs. Mr. Schwartz said that the town would be responsible for Pinebank if the association dissolves.
- Ms. Bonshak asked Mr. McCaughey what is the maintenance budget for Woodlawn Cemetery. He replied that it is large, multiple \$100K’s. Mr. HerrGessell noted that Woodlawn is part of the community and is important. Mr. McCaughey noted \$1 million to renovate the Woodlawn Chapel.
- Mr. HerrGessell noted that Hunn Cemetery could be a history park.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

Adjournment @ 9:52 AM

Next Meeting, May 3, 2022, 9AM