

DURHAM HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the meeting of November 19, 1989.

The meeting was held at the house of Commission Chairman Fred Militello, Rt. 20, East Durham, New York.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Militello at 10:30 A.M. Present were members Militello, Douglas Thomsen, Karen Feldman (by telephone) and David Menken (by telephone). Also present was Dan Clifton, member of the Steering Committee of the Association for the Preservation of Durham Valley.

Commission members Militello and Thomsen discussed the feedback they have received in connection with the Public Hearing held on November 11, 1989 and the proposed Cornwallville Historic District. There has been some general concern expressed regarding the procedures and criteria to be used by the Commission, but there has been very little feedback regarding the proposed Cornwallville Historic District, itself. To date, there have been just three comments: one resident indicated that she thought the designated area was too large; one said it was too small and the third said that he felt the currently proposed boundaries were appropriate.

A motion was made by Chairman Militello to approve the proposed Cornwallville Historic District, as designated. The motion was seconded by Thomsen and carried unanimously.

Chairman Militello also proposed that the Commission meet with Town Supervisor Robert Armstrong within the next two weeks to discuss the work of the Commission generally and to plan for a

public information meeting sometime in mid-December. The Commission members agreed that a meeting with Bob Armstrong should be set up on November 25th, if possible.

Chairman Militello asked Feldman and Menken, the attorney-members, to review any documents that are available concerning certified local governments and to prepare, as soon as possible, a set of procedures and criteria for use by the Commission in making determinations regarding:

- (1) historic properties located within or outside a historic district;
- (2) properties within a historic district that are not historic; and
- (3) new construction within a historic district.

Chairman Militello asked Thomsen to review the status and condition of historic markers in the Town of Durham and to report back to the Commission at a future meeting.

Thomsen suggested that the community would be more receptive to the Commission if there were more publicity about its work and about the historic sites themselves. To that end, he proposed that we begin to publish short histories of some of the older houses in the Historic District in the local newspapers. Chairman Militello asked Dan Clifton to compile material on historic houses and other structures in the Historic District, including the material gathered by the Association for the Preservation of Durham Valley in the landfill fight, for the

purpose of publishing short histories in newspapers and for the Commission's own archives.

Upon a motion to adjourn by Chairman Militello, seconded by Thomsen, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 A.M.