

Public Hearing
Tuesday, October 18, 2011

Local Law #2 - 2011

Establishing an Assessment Exemption for Improvements to Designated Historic Properties in the Town of Hillsdale

I. Call to order

Proof of Notice having been furnished, the Public Hearing on a proposed assessment exemption for improvements to designated historic properties within the Hillsdale Historic District in the Town of Hillsdale, NY, was called to order by **Supervisor Art Baer at 7:00 pm on October 18, 2011 in the Hillsdale Town Hall.**

II. Attending

The following persons were present: Supervisor Baer, Board Members Carmen Barbato, Peter Cipkowski, Augie Sena, and Gillian Sims-Elster; Town Clerk Julie Kane; Planning Board Chair Hank Henward, Comprehensive Plan Review Committee Chair Tom Carty, Historic Preservation Subcommittee Chair Robina Ward; and 15 members of the public, including 8 Boy Scouts.

III. Discussion

Mr. Baer introduced expressed the Board's support for the efforts of the Historic Preservation Subcommittee and introduced Mr. Carty who explained the intent of the exemption and the mechanics for administering it.

A member of the public asked how the amounts of the exemptions would be determined, and Mr. Carty explained that the State Historic Preservation Office would determine the preservation value of any project proposed for this exemption.

In response to a question about whether it was fair for the rest of the Town's residents to subsidize work done by those who own historic property, Mr. Baer explained that the proposed exemption was similar to those already in place for veterans, the elderly and the disabled and added that improving the appearance of historic structures in the hamlet is a first step in attracting business. Mr. Carty stated that each individual exemption would add only a few cents to the average tax bill.

In response to a question from the public, Mr. Carty stated that assessment exemptions would only benefit the current property owner and could not be passed along to a later purchaser of the property.

Mr. Warren Bloomfield, a legal resident of the Town of Copake presented a letter to the Board questioning the legitimacy of the Historic District Designation and the present hearing, asking that it be included in the minutes of the Public Hearing. (Copy attached.)

IV. Adjournment

There being no comment from the public, the Hearing was closed at 7:25 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Julie Kane, Hillsdale Town Clerk