



**THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE
NEW YORK**

PUBLIC HEARING

**(REGARDING PROPOSED DESIGNATION
OF 87 SOUTH HAMILTON STREET AS A
LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK)**

MINUTES

Monday, March 4, 2013 6:00 pm

City Hall

Chairman Mallory called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Holly Wahlberg – 35 Garfield Place - I think it's probably always good to start with the question, "Why?" "Why are we here? Why is this important? Why do communities landmark buildings, like the one on the agenda, tonight?" The most obvious answer is that preservation can help stabilize and revitalize the neighborhoods. Thriving Historic neighborhoods in turn around and attract tourists. Particularly, the kind known as Heritage Tourists, who spend approximately 30% more in the places they visit than standard tourists. In so doing, they bring economic revitalization to the places they visit. But, most importantly, preservation provides the ultimate teachable moment for our young people in this community, and I know many of you care very deeply about the young people in this community. Preservation exposes them to history, to beauty, to design and craftsmanship. Preservation keeps alive for them a link to the people of our past, whose hard work and tremendous civic pride earned for Poughkeepsie, the Queen City. If you had a chance to read the nomination before coming here tonight, by now you'd know that great buildings are great story tellers and great teachers. They contain the fascinating stories that knit us together as a community, and give us our shared identity as Poughkeepsians. The truly great thing is that these stories belong to us equally to our daily lives, no matter what our class, color or creed. These buildings and their stories are our character. A successful, healthy city that people want to live in and visit, is one that is rich in character. A character is a very fragile thing. Historical character is easily and frequently lost, erased, damaged, even destroyed. A local register listing is not a magic shield for any building, but it can help protect our most important and fragile buildings and neighborhoods. In 2012, I enjoyed how the Council tried to inspire the community by honoring some of the heroes of every day Poughkeepsie and ceremonies

in this chamber. The owner of 87 South Hamilton [Street], Ken Weedin, is another of those inspiring people with outstanding work, we get to celebrate every time we walk or drive by his home. It was my pleasure to prepare tonight's nomination and tell some of the stories of this great house; a house unanimously recommended for designation by the City's Preservation Commission. It is my great pleasure to introduce to you, the home's owner, Ken Weedin. Thank you very much.

Ken Weedin – 87 South Hamilton Street - The thing that matters to me a great deal about the house, is that it's not a great house. It really is an example of probably Upper Middle Class...(inaudible)...1971. In such a house, the craftsmanship inside and outside is remarkable. Every craftsman that has come inside the house has been truck by the mahogany banister that had to be steamed in order to be curved around. That sort of thing is typical of my house. So, it seems to me, worthy of being on this list – not because anything remarkable ever happened in the house that I know about. It's had four (4) different owners that lived in a fairly middle class house. It's a fine house with fine architecture and is very good to live in to entertain and for being by oneself.

Terry Horner - 81 South Hamilton Street – As you will gather from my address, I live three (3) doors up from Mr. Weedin's house. My wife and I had our house landmarked, in, I believe 1999 or maybe it was 2000. It was either some months or a bit over year after we had bought it essentially to save it. While we are in our 14th year of our 9 month plan, we have essentially saved it; at least we have stabilized it. We still have a long way to go, but we're about 85% finished. Holly asked me to come tonight to support the application and I wholeheartedly do support the Commission's resolution because one important component of preservation is critical mass. It's better to have a Historic District than to have a freestanding building here, and a free standing building there. For the last 13 or so years, our house has been freestanding. If the Council approves the designation of 87 South Hamilton Street, we now have bookends. For an important four row area. No. 83 South Hamilton Street is about the same age as Mr. Weedin's house and No. 85, I've heard is the most photographed house in Poughkeepsie, the Rutherford House (also known as the Brinkerhoff House). It's an outstanding row of four. On the other side of Mr. Weedin is No. 91 - the (now, Franklin Apartments), but it was built as the Poughkeepsie Orphanage and Home for the ...(inaudible). Mr. Weedin has to take it a step at a time. Ultimately, my hope would be that the entire side of the block be landmarked but we have to take it a piece at a time. I'm thrilled that Mr. Weedin decided to do this and I'm thrilled that the Historic District Commission voted in favor of it and I urge this Council to do the same, because, as I said, "It's bookends now." I hope that someday No.'s 83 and 85 will decide to come along with us and I would finally like to echo what Mr. Weedin said about the Craftsman from that era. Our house was built in 1864 or a little earlier, and our house is a grand house. It's got a tower, it's got twenty (20) rooms, but when workmen come in and see the craftsmanship, all the work we've done when we tore out walls and saw what the place was made of, it was just amazing and I urge this Council to approve the resolution of the Historic District Commission

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Harvey Flad - 115 Academy Street – Which, as you all know, is part of the Academy Street Historic District, next to the Garfield Place Historic District and just 1 ½ blocks from the South Hamilton group that Terry Horner just mentioned. I just wanted to say that this is a wonderful occasion, a great possibility. It's absolutely crucial for our residents restoring their homes. As Mr. Horner said, as we went into his house, it needed, shall we say, "A lot of work?" I can say the same 30 years ago when I went into what is known as a "White Elephant" for this house in the City of Poughkeepsie. I fully support it and I hope you do too.

I hereby certify that this a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Public Hearing held on Monday, March 4, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

City Chamberlain