

**Historic Preservation Commission of Mendon, NY**  
**October 1, 2025 Meeting**

**Members Present:**

Lynn Buehlman, Martha Bush, Diane Ham (Town Historian), Jim Merzke (Town board liaison)

**Visitors from the public:**

Eric and Alex Orban

**Members Absent:**

Kaley Catlin, Geoff Tesch (chairman)

**The meeting was called to order by Martha Bush at 7:00 PM**

**Minutes from August meeting:**

Motion: Minutes to be approved

L. Buehlman moved, D. Ham Second

Motion carried

**Old Business:**

The Crosby signage -- J. Merzke said the Town is still in discussions with the oil company on the new sign for the canopy over the pumps.

**New Business**

**1. Orban Subdivision**

Cheese Factory Rd. Across from the listed Falta home at Chamberlain and Cheese Factory. The homeowner filed an application to build three homes on this 100+ acre lot. The lot is within the 500' boundary from the HPC listed historic Daniel Smith home, 445 Cheese Factory Rd.

HPC has sent these notes to the planning board:

- After reviewing the site plan and architectural drawings, we had just a few notes to share with the Planning Board and the Orbans.
- The three houses are nicely set back from the road so there will be little encroachment of the visual lines of the historic home across the street.
- It seems that only the larger central house will be within the 500' buffer around the historic home.
- The design elements of the large home are very compatible with the historic home (board and batten farmhouse style).
- There is currently a green barrier along the street frontage across from the historic home (trees and hedges). We would recommend that some kind of green barrier be left, or replanted once the construction is complete as a buffer with the old house.

- If there are lights planned for the entrance of the new driveways. In that case, we'd recommend that they be motion-activated rather than be left on throughout the night so as not to distract drivers around this curve in Cheese Factory Road (which is often criss-crossed by deer throughout the year).

#### **Historian's Report:**

- A discussion has come up with the village about the totem pole in the town. Since the Haudenosaunee people did not use totem poles, this may not be a culturally appropriate way to recognize the early people on town land.
- A local book club raised the issue of the name of Harry Allen Park and why it is not inclusive of Mrs. Harry Allen. Diane was asked to comment on this and since the Allen family gave the land for the park and asked for it to be named as such, she recommended no changes to the name.
- The Menz home has been sold
- The Mendon Foundation sign for Rochester Junction has been installed.

#### **Town Liaison's Report on the August 8th and September 22nd board meetings:**

- The primary agendas for these meetings were budget-related.
  - There will be an upcoming public hearing on the budget. Some highlights:
    - Budget stays within the tax cap
    - Additional budget line for Senior Citizen programs, Highway department, Summer Rec, Dreisbach field expansions and sidewalks in the Hamplet.
  - The tax rate stays the same
- A declaration for Constitution Week was made with the DAR
- A task force was planned to adopt a plan to join the Climate Smart Communities
- An electronics and shredding recycling event will be held on October 18th at the community center
- A capital improvement plan is in the works and will come before a public hearing
- A new contract for the Fire Protection District is upcoming and will be included in the public hearing

Lynn gave a presentation on the Seneca Chief, a re-created Erie Canal boat that is sailing down the Canal to celebrate the 200th anniversary.

**Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 PM**

**The next meeting will be Wed, Nov 5th at 7:00 PM**

Respectfully submitted by Martha Bush