



Albany Avenue Project

November 28, 2023

6:05pm-7:10pm

Historic Preservation

Trustee Browne opened the meeting by reading a statement from the Mayor which spoke to the perceived visual impact the project will have on the historical nature of the aesthetic of the village. The Village Board does not believe that the updates will have a negative visual impact on the Village.

Discussion:

Granite curb vs concrete curb. Granite was the choice overall

Brick vs alternative material. The consensus was brick.

HPC Response

HPC has a statement which was read outloud, the document is attached for full review.

The Commission opened with the following statement;

The Historic Preservation Commission of the Village of Kinderhook fully supports the goals of the Albany Avenue Projects to replace the antiquated water mains and to install a proper drainage system. It recognizes these projects as necessary upgrades that will greatly benefit not only the residents of Albany Avenue but also visitors patronizing local businesses and/or attending Village events. However, the HPC finds that the two plans being proposed compromise the historic character of Albany Avenue.

Minutes created by:

Melanie Brodowski
Melanie Brodowski, Secretary

Nov 200

Sign In - Historic Preservation

- 1 Paul RINEHART 27 ALBANY AV
- 2 MICHAEL SUSI & SEAN SAUYER 17 ALBANY AV
- 3 Tim Husband 31 Albany Ave
- 4 Astrid Montagano 16 Albany Ave
- 5 Bevis Zotaj 16 Albany Ave
- 6 Phil GILWIK 47 " "
- 7 Ally Anderson 53 " "

Several residents did not sign in

The Historic Preservation Commission of the Village of Kinderhook fully supports the goals of the Albany Avenue Projects to replace the antiquated water mains and to install a proper drainage system. It recognizes these projects as necessary upgrades that will greatly benefit not only the residents of Albany Avenue but also visitors patronizing local businesses and/or attending Village events. However, the HPC finds that the two plans being proposed compromise the historic character of the Albany Avenue.

The HPC recommends that water main and drainage upgrades be accomplished with minimal impact on the current layout and appearance of Albany Avenue to preserve the historic character and appearance of the neighborhood. Specifically, to retain:

- 10-foot traffic lanes, the standard for the village and roads beyond.
- uninterrupted parking/service lanes of varying width but no narrower than 7 feet on both sides of the street
- verges/buffers of varying width where and as space permits
- walkways of 5 feet reverting to 4 feet as the road narrows

The HPC views the variations or irregularities in dimensions or layout of lanes, verges, and walkways as contributors to the character of the street that reflect its organic evolution over several centuries. It therefore considers them part of the historic fabric of the village and strongly recommends that they be preserved.

While trees are not structures and therefore not technically under the purview of the HPC they are, nonetheless, a defining feature of the street and are part of its historic fabric as well as a visual asset. The Commission recommends that all efforts should be made to preserve them wherever possible even if that requires alterations of the dimensions or layout of walkways, verges, and/or parking/service lanes. Work-arounds are greatly preferred to destruction.

While the Commission recognizes that many NYS DOT guidelines are suitable for urban or suburban areas it views them as inappropriate for a rural village setting. The Commission strongly recommends against the regularization or standardization of features that deprive the street of its historic rural character.

Albany Avenue, along with the core of the village, is on the National Register of Historic Places, a Federal designation. Both the ADA and NYS DOT guidelines explicitly state that places with a National Register designation are eligible for exemptions. In this light, the HPC recommends that an additional third alternative Albany Avenue plan incorporating the recommendations of the HPC outlined above be submitted to NYS DOT.