

OP-ED Express Editorial Submission DRAFT

It's Time...

We implore the Sag Harbor Village to recognize and inventory the SANS Historic District as a local historic district per State contracted agreements and Certified Local Government (CLG) duties the 2019 designation on State and National Registries deserves.

Back in 1994, Sag Harbor expanded its Historic District east to include Eastville, the Watch Case factory, and surrounds, stopping short of including the three adjacent Planned Communities formed from 1947-1952 - slightly shy of the 50-years age requirement. The 1994 Nomination, nevertheless, affirmed the areas "deserve future study as early resort communities built for African Americans".

For almost 30 years, the Village as a CLG has failed to perform this study and include these adjacent areas now known as the SANS Historic District. As a CLG, the Village is contracted with New York State (SHPO) to "maintain a system for the survey and inventory of historic properties that is coordinated with and complementary to the survey activities of SHPO". **In return, the Village was eligible and received State grants to perform required CLG duties including:**

- 1) "... Local inventories shall include, at a minimum: (a) All properties in the municipality that have been listed in the State and National Registers of Historic Places,"
- 2) "All inventory material shall be updated to reflect new historic information ...or status of inventoried property as such information becomes available, but at least every five years."
- 3) Hold required 2 Public Hearings regarding its own local designation of qualified historic districts abiding with local Village Code and processes.
- 4) Adhere to - "Owner consent for designation is not allowed with the CLG program. While some communities allow an owner to block designation of a property, this is not acceptable under the CLG program...An owner can present information during the designation process, but cannot "veto" the designation."

Formally, we have asked the Village from 2017 to now to follow the CLG process and VOTE! After we self-funded, met all petitioning benchmarks, documented, and earned State and National designations including our beach, the Village has sidestepped the issue through 4 mayoral and Board of Trustees administrations. In 2022, the Village pushed by some residents approved an Overlay Zoning which addresses landscaping preservation and house size limitations (...and not objected to by the SANS Historic District resident advocates for what it preserves), but it does not fulfill Village historic district obligations that CAN co-exist with the Overlay. The Overlay alone will not preserve the Planned Community into the future. Importantly, the Overlay allows unlimited demolition which is counter intuitive to preserving these nationally recognized, historic Planned Communities listed in the Library of Congress.

Village, please do your duty on this before it is too late. It's time.

SANS Sag Harbor Organization
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