

June 26, 2024

Jim Orman, Mayor  
Village Trustees  
Village of Aurora  
Aurora, NY

Dear Mayor Orman and Village Trustees

The CPP recommends three Zoning Law amendments (outlined below) to the Village Board for approval. While a couple of these recommendations have been previously adopted by the CPP, we have waited until the Zoning Law has been finalized to recommend them to the Village Board. We understand the gargantuan process of finalizing and gaining approval for the new Zoning Law and did not want to burden you further with the following recommendations. We are happy that this task has finally been accomplished. Now we request that the Village Board consider and adopt our recommendations.

Boathouse/Glen Park Lawn Scenic Landscape Landmark

First, on February 14, 2024 the CPP voted to recommend that the Boathouse/Glen Park lawn be designated as a Scenic Landscape Landmark as follows:

The open, green area between the Hickey House and the President's House at the south end of Aurora looking west over Cayuga Lake is the iconic identification of our picturesque village. Residents have commented that when entering the village from the south and passing this landscape they sense the feeling, "I'm home!" This area and the lawn to the east was part of Henry Well's lawn. It is the scenic view that "wows" visitors.

Therefore the Community Preservation Panel recommends that the Village Board designate as a **Scenic Landscape Landmark** portions of 193.05-1-1 (blue outline on attached map provided) and 193.05-1-6.11 (to the west, along the lake shore), drawn so as to include the Boathouse access and the small grove of peach trees added to annually in a Wells College-Gayagohono (Cayuga) commemoration of the Sullivan Campaign of 1779. This is the area bounded on the north by the south boundary of the Hickey House, on the east by State Route 90, on the south by the north boundary of the President's House, and on the west by Cayuga Lake. **The area recommended as a Scenic Landscape Landmark is outlined on the map provided in green.** Note that while the recommendation does not include the Glen Park and Well College lawns on the east side of State Route 90 as part of the scenic landscape landmark, these lawns (yellow dotted outline on the attached map provided) are documented as historically supportive of the recommended Boathouse/Glen Park Scenic Landscape.

The map outlining the area to be designated as a Scenic Landscape Landmark is attached.

Zoning Law Language

Second, on May 7, 2024 the CPP recommended changes in the language of Article VII of the new Zoning Law as follows:

The Zoning Law that was recently proposed for adoption has several paragraphs in Article VII which the Community Preservation Panel recommends to be changed. As currently written these paragraphs require:

1. An additional, burdensome (to the public as well as to the Panel) public hearing when making decisions about recommendations for additions to the Village Landmarks and Historic Districts (Section 7.06), and
2. An additional, burdensome public hearing when making decisions about applicants' requests other than ordinary maintenance or work that is replacement in kind (Section 7.09 and Section 7.10).

The Panel is recommending the removal of the designated paragraphs (in red font).

Additionally, several other clarifying words and/or phrases are suggested to be added to Article VII (Section 7.04, Section 7.08, and Section 7.13) (in blue font).

All recommended deletions from Article VII are in red font and struck through with a line. All recommended additional language is in blue font. The proposed Article VII is attached.

#### Cherry Ave/Court St. Local Landmark Historic District

On June 5, 2024 the CPP voted to recommend that Cherry Avenue/Court Street be added to the list of historic landmarks as the “**Cherry Ave/Court St Local Landmark Historic District.**”

Adding this important neighborhood, which were homes of the working people of Aurora, recognizes the critical role these people played in the development of the village. The unifying and defining feature of this neighborhood is its role in housing and providing familial and social cohesion among the working families of Aurora. Many of the homes in this neighborhood were moved from Main Street, converted from existing barn structures, or built on site in the mid to late 1800's. The description of the houses in the proposed Historic District along with tax numbers of the properties is attached.

Thank you for including these amendments in the new Zoning Law.

Jim Burkett, Chair

Community Preservation Panel

#### Attachments:

- Article VII Proposed Amendments
- Scenic Landscape Landmark Map for Boathouse/Glen Park Lawn
- Cherry Ave/Court Street Local Landmark Historic District: A Working-Family Neighborhood
- Properties, Owners, Addresses, Tax ID Numbers, and Notes for Cherry Ave/Court St Historic Neighborhood/District