

Village of Aurora Historical Society
Post Office Box 136, Aurora, New York, 13026

February 18, 2025

Honorable James Orman, Mayor
Board of Trustees of the Village of Aurora
456 Main Street
Aurora, New York 13026

Re: Updates to the Local Landmarks List

Dear Mayor Orman and Village Trustees,

The Village of Aurora Historical Society (AHS) urges the Village of Aurora to add to the Local Landmarks list Barler Music Hall and Campbell Art Building as designated landmarks and Boathouse Lawn as a scenic landmark. We agree with and endorse the information and analysis prepared by the Village Historian, Linda Schwab, dated January 15, 2025 and sent to you.

Further, we endorse the information and position contained in the letter dated February 14, 2025, jointly sent by the Preservation Association of Central New York, the Landmark Society of Western New York, the Preservation League of New York State, and Historic Ithaca, also to you.

In addition, AHS draws attention to a document the Village Board is very familiar with, the Village of Aurora Comprehensive Plan, which is barely three years old. As you know, the primary purpose of this or any municipal Comprehensive Plan is to guide the Village's boards in making decisions, including – pointedly – in local land use matters. It defined and articulated a shared local vision for the future and adopted policies and strategies to further that vision. Among them, it states:

Continue to support and diversify the historic district, contributing buildings and features and/or Local Landscapes.

...protect natural resources and views of Cayuga Lake.

Work toward conservation of the lakefront opposite Wells College through acquisition or regulation, to preserve iconic views of the lake and maintain the natural beauty and ecology of that section of lakefront.

If there is ever disagreement over a municipal board's decision in passing or amending a law, for instance, adding a landmark, one of the first things a court notes when upholding and determining that the board did not act arbitrarily and capriciously is that the action in question was consistent with their Comprehensive Plan. Boards can take comfort when making a decision, even a seemingly controversial one, that is backed by their Comprehensive Plan and its evidence of their community's sentiments.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Shirley K. Egan, President