

TOWN OF WEST SENECA



SHEILA M. MEEGAN  
TOWN SUPERVISOR

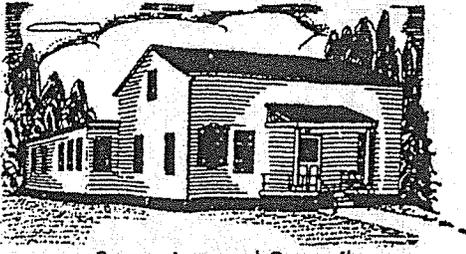
To: Fellow Town Board Members

From: Sheila M. Meegan, Town Supervisor

Date: August 9, 2012

Re: **Consulting Services for West Seneca Historical Museum**

Per the attached communication, kindly move to support the West Seneca Historical Society in their efforts to be designated on the National Historic Register by funding a Historic Buildings Survey Consultant for the application process.



## WEST SENECA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

919 MILL ROAD  
WEST SENECA, NEW YORK 14224  
(716) 674-4283

August 2, 2012

Supervisor and Councilpersons  
West Seneca Town Hall  
1250 Union Road  
West Seneca, NY 14224

Dear Supervisor Meegan, Councilman Hart & Councilman Rusinski:

Enclosed with this letter are quotes from two area National Register and Historic Buildings Survey Consultants for their charges for application for National Historic Register designation for the West Seneca Historical Society Museum building. There are also some biographical outlines of the consultants being considered.

Earlier this year, I met at the museum with Dr. Virginia Bartos, regional director from the Division for Historic Preservation of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. After an extensive tour of our museum and its surrounding neighborhood, she felt unequivocally that our museum building, being a well preserved circa 1850s Ebenezer Society house, would be eligible to be listed on the National Historic Register of historic sites. This is an incredibly prestigious designation. In addition to drawing national recognition and attention to the museum and the rich history of the Town of West Seneca, it would also open up a number of grant and other funding opportunities to help further the mission of the West Seneca Historical Society.

The application process and paperwork for the National Historic Register is, however, extremely difficult, having become even more complex in recent years. It is almost beyond the time and expertise limitations of a so-called "informed historian" such as me! To make an application properly within an efficient timeline and with a reasonable chance of success, the utilization of a specialized consultant is helpful. The two consultants whose quotes I have obtained have visited the museum and concurred with Dr. Bartos about our museum's eligibility. In addition, they have proven records of success.

I am formally asking the Board to support the efforts to have the West Seneca Historical Society Museum listed on the National Historic Register by funding a Historic Buildings Survey Consultant for the application process. The next quarterly NYS application review board meeting when we might have the process completed is March of 2013. I hope you will make a timely and favorable decision.

Sincerely,

James Pace

West Seneca Town Historian  
Encl.

*Preserving the past for the future ...*

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