

2023-K43

Assembly Resolution No. 43

BY: M. of A. Manktelow

COMMEMORATING the 100th Anniversary of the Trolley Station in Lyons, New York, on December 28, 2022

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the efforts of those organizations which seek to bring recognition to historical places within the State of New York, and in doing so, help to ensure that the complete history of our State and Nation is preserved and shared with present generations of citizens; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Trolley Station in Lyons, New York, which was celebrated at an Open House on Wednesday, December 28, 2022; and

WHEREAS, The Trolley Station, located at 1 Montezuma Street, was built as a combined passenger and freight station for the Rochester, Syracuse & Eastern Railroad (RS&E), an electric trolley car service from Rochester to Syracuse, in December of 1922; however, the RS&E had been running through Lyons since 1905, when the trolley line first started service; and

WHEREAS, Prior to the building of a dedicated trolley station in Lyons, the RS&E used a rented storefront on Williams Street (possibly No. 30) as its passenger station; the trolley line predominantly used

the old Erie Canal route from Rochester to Syracuse; and

WHEREAS, In Lyons, it snaked its way through the village, sharing the road bed with wagons and horses; the trolley traveled along Water Street, turning a sharp corner onto William Street, and then turning again onto Canal Street before exiting Lyons to the east; the RS&E entered the village of Lyons from the west via a metal bridge, which exists today carrying a pipeline over the barge canal; and

WHEREAS, By 1909, the trolley line was completed to Syracuse, and numerous branch lines were added over time; the RS&E (and its successor, Empire United Railways), ceased operation in 1930, when the system was declared bankrupt, largely due to the advent of the automobile; and

WHEREAS, The trolley drew its power from overhead cables, and the system utilized direct current (dc) power which was converted to high voltage alternating current power (ac) for efficiency in transmission to distant places, and then was converted back to dc power; and

WHEREAS, The Lyons powerhouse provided power for the entire system, and substations located every 10 miles or so were used to convert the ac power back to dc for the trolley to use; old substations can still be seen in Port Gibson and in Savannah, among others; and

WHEREAS, In the Fall of 1922, the RS&E straightened out the route through Lyons by utilizing the old canal bed, routing new tracks starting at Water Street, and then curving slightly to traverse the current parking lot behind the Wayne County Social Services building, crossing Montezuma Street, and then continuing across the current parking lot behind Dobbins Drugs; and

WHEREAS, At that spot, the RS&E built a new type "A" combined passenger and freight station, completed in December of 1922; the freight portion of the station, encompassing the current diner counter and kitchens, was 50 feet long, while the passenger waiting area and the ticket counter were 18.5 feet long; the windows and the large front door are mostly original; and

WHEREAS, In 1922, the old canal bed and canal basin had not been filled in after the two disused versions of the Erie Canal and the enlarged Canal were drained; in order to fill the canal bed to accommodate the new double track, the RS&E used an accumulation of cinders from its main powerhouse; 20,000 cubic yards of fill were needed to complete the project, of which 12,000 cubic yards were cinders from the Lyons powerhouse; and

WHEREAS, The Trolley House's raised freight floor was lowered to provide more dining space, and the ceiling was dropped to provide for modern utilities; the exterior of the building is original, including the cement "trolley stop" where the trolley would park to dispense its passengers and freight; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to express its highest admiration for the Lyons Main State Program, and for all of the individuals who have worked to bring proper attention to a place and time which merits recognition in the grand panorama of the history of our State and Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Lyons Trolley Station on December 28, 2022; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be

transmitted to Kim Howell, Director, Lyons Main Street Program.