

## **Town of New Paltz Historic Preservation Commission Meeting**

**Wednesday April 18<sup>th</sup> 2018 7:00PM - 9:00PM in the Community Center**

Commissioners attending: John Orfitelli (Chair), Susan DeMark, Dawn Elliott, and Kate Brodowska along with Town Board Liaison, Julie Seyfert Lillis

Also attending: Matt Maley, Local Artist and Owner of [Visual Stuff Studio](#)

### **Agenda**

1. Public Comment
2. Review/Approve February Minutes
3. Incentives for Historic Preservation
4. Historic Landmark Signage for Put Corners Cemetery
  - a. Interpretive Plaque Design
5. Gateway Committee Update

### **Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm with a motion from Susan DeMark and seconded by Kate Brodowska. Motion carried.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

1. **Public Comment:** No public comments were received.
2. **Review/Approve February Minutes:** Motion to approve minutes from our meeting on February 21<sup>th</sup> was made by Susan DeMark and seconded by Kate Brodowska. Motion carried. Note: the meeting in March was cancelled due to weather.
3. **Incentives for Historic Preservation:** Scheduling conflicts have made it difficult to meet with Deputy Town Board Supervision Dan Torres regarding his ideas and recommendations for how best to proceed with legislation by New York State that would allow New Paltz to collect a fee on real estate transactions for the purpose of helping owners of historic landmarks. Julie Seyfert Lillis agreed to check with Dan at the next Town Board meeting (4/19) on a date/time he would be available to meet with members of the Commission.

John Orfitelli introduced creation of a 501c3 to collect contributions from donors (which would be 100% tax deductible) to build a self-sustaining trust fund. Money from the trust would be distributed to assist only owners of properties designated as historic landmarks, thereby, creating an incentive for owners to have their properties designated by the Commission. John has not worked through the details of setting up the 501c3, however, it does appear doable.. in any case, it also will take a lot of effort to implement and to eventually reach a 'critical mass' of \$200,000 which, at a 5% return, would yield \$10,000 a year and be self-sustaining.

### **4. Historic Landmark Signage**

The delivery date for the road side marker from Catskill Castings will be on or about May 8<sup>th</sup>. The Commission discussed holding an dedication event at the South Put Cemetery around the end of May or early June. Hampton Inn owner, Jay Modhwadiya, very graciously has offered to host a public reception at his hotel which will include refreshments. John Orfitelli agreed to contact HHS (cemetery property owner) and Mr. Modhwadiya to determine the best set of dates for the event and conduct a poll among the Commission for a date which will allow the majority to attend.

**a) Interpretive Plaque Design:** Over the past several months members of the Commission led by Susan DeMark continued to work on collecting materials in the three categories:

- Local Historic Context
- Cultural History
- Family Histories and Images

Ancestry.com and [Find A Grave](#) were utilized to explore the names and dates in the spreadsheet records provided by John Orfitelli along with family photos or other related information. After discussing the types and amount of material that has been collected to date, Matt Maley suggested the Commission has enough content to move forward with creation of a prototype. Kate Brodowska offered to create a Dropbox which will be used to collecting all of the material. Matt agreed to create a draft of the interpretive sign for review at our next meeting in May. The goal is to have a final version for display at the dedication. John Orfitelli agreed to draft a timeline of the tasks leading up to the event including press releases and publications on social media.

- 5. Gateway Committee Update:** The [final report from the Gateway Committee](#) was presented to the Town Board on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Julie Seyfert Lillis described the response from the Board as very favorable to the recommendations outlined in the report and extended their appreciation to the Committee for their work. Of particular importance is the focus on visual elements, architecture, and limits on building size, area, and height which were described for each of the four zones.

Next Steps: The Town Board has requested to be Lead Agency which will coordinate zoning law changes for review by the Ulster County Planning Board, New Paltz Town Board, and Town attorney.

**Miscellaneous:**

- The annual CLG Report for 2017 was submitted to SHPO by John Orfitelli on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Since this item had not been covered in our meeting this month, the Commission will address any questions/comments at our next meeting in May.

Motion to adjourn was made by Kate Brodowska and seconded by Dawn Elliott. Motion carried.  
Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

**Next Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 16<sup>st</sup> 2018.**