

Town of New Paltz Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
Tuesday December 13th 2011 7:30PM - 9:30PM
at the Town Community Center

Commissioners attending: John Orfitelli (Chair), Helen Christie (Vice Chair), Kathleen Interrante, Dave Gilmore and Kitty Brown, Town Board Liaison.

Public Attending: Gerri Buck, Howard Buck, Linda Donovan, Pat Scharz, Roseann Sellers, Maria Cordovano, Leah Manders

Agenda

1. Public Hearing: Landmark Designation of the Property Owned by Gerri Buck
2. Meet with Volunteer Leah Manders
3. Review/Approve Minutes from November

Minutes

1) Public Hearing: Landmark Designation of the Property Owned by Gerri Buck

The public hearing for the landmark designation of the property owned by Gerri Buck as described in the Nomination initiated on 8/9/2009 was called to order at 7:35pm by a motion from Helen Christie and seconded by Kathleen Interrante. All voted in favor to proceed.

Dave Gilmore provided an overview of the Commission's role and responsibilities. He described how the Commission was certified in 2002 and that 7 properties have been designated as local historic landmarks at this time.

John Orfitelli highlighted one possible direction for the Commission is to classify certain types of structures, such as stone houses, as Historic Landmarks. The Commission is basically chartered to protect and conserve the historic assets of the Town of New Paltz through the designation process. A Certificate of Appropriateness is required for home owners who intend to make external changes to a structure designated as an historic landmark. John explained how the Historic Preservation website contains information about the Commission, forms, and minutes to meetings along with an Interactive On-Line map with the data on properties collected through various grants.

John Orfitelli proceeded to read the architectural description of Gerri Buck's house written by William Rhoads in support of the designation. Certain articles and photos contained in the nomination will be digitized to improve clarity. A decision document will be prepared and submitted to the County Clerk. Tax maps are then updated to reflect the landmark designation.

Linda Donovan asked if the designation is permanent or can be revoked. Dave Gilmore responded that it is permanent and runs with the land.

A copy of the decision to designate from the S.Putt Corners Cemetery was provided by Kathleen Interrante as an example of what will be prepared. The decision of designation must be completed and filed within 62 days after the vote to approve by the Commission.

Dave Gilmore made a site visit and reviewed U.C.G.I.S data. Gerri Buck explained that the original map shows the right of way (R.O.W.) to Jacobis' land. At one time she asked Lemets (adjoining property) to release their right to the R.O.W. In return she purchased a new driveway for them.

Dave asked about the blue and gold NYS marker for the 'Owl Church' near Danica Drive. Further investigation will be required to determine the origin and meaning. Gerri explained that at one time the girls dorm burned down and how the boys dorm became a horse barn.

Dave proceeded to read the criteria for designation of a landmark from the Zoning Law Section 140-142. This particular landmark possesses multiple characteristics sited as required for designation.

Maria Cordovano pointed out that the nomination document that was made available at the Town Hall for review was missing a section. John Orfitelli described what the missing pages contained and that they had been replaced in the final document available for review at the meeting.

Dave Gilmour issued a motion to end public hearing. Helen Christie seconded. All were in favor to end the public hearing portion of the meeting.

Dave Gilmour then proceeded to propose the landmark designation of the parcel 86.1-3-16 with the stipulation that we notify UC Clerk, Town Board, and Town Clerk to retain the file and recommend that we continue to build the photo library for this site.

Kathleen Interrante seconded. All voted in favor to landmark the property. The Commission congratulated Gerri and thanked her for adding her property to our list of local historic landmarks.

Linda Donovan asked if there were any provision for marking the site with a plaque. The Commission responded that a plaque or marker will be discussed at future meetings.

The Commission thanked the public for attending the hearing and proceeded to the next agenda item at 8:45pm.

2) Meet with Volunteer Leah Manders

The Commission met with Leah Manders who is interested in helping the Commission as a volunteer. Leah is a student at SUNY majoring in anthropology and is expected to graduate in two weeks, however, she will be living in New Paltz until June 2012. John Orfitelli reviewed the various projects underway and planned for 2012. Leah indicated an interest in helping with these projects and in particular the Mohonk preserve project which involves researching the six estates that are contained within the 857 acres that will be part of the land conservancy.

Dave Gilmour highlighted the need for the Commission to incorporate archaeological contingencies and learn more about possibilities for archaeological sites and discoveries.

Leah agreed to meet next month with Josh Simons at CRREO and John Orfitelli to learn more about the various grant projects and her role in helping the Commission.

Dave Gilmour suggested that an annual report be created and shared with the newly elected Town Supervisor, Susan Zimet, along with the Town Board at a future board meeting. John Orfitelli agreed to draft a report for review at our meeting in January and arrange for a meeting with the Supervisor.

3) Review/Approve Minutes from November

Dave Gilmour presented a motion to approve minutes of November 16th meeting. Helen seconded. All voted in favor to approve the minutes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20pm