

Town of New Paltz Historic Preservation Commission Meeting

Wednesday January 24th 2018 7:00PM - 9:00PM in the Community Center

Commissioners attending: John Orfitelli (Chair), Caryn Sobel (Vice Chair), Susan DeMark, Dawn Elliott.

Agenda

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

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm with a motion from Dawn Elliott and seconded by Susan DeMark. Motion carried.

Pledge of Allegiance

1. **Public Comment:** No public comments were received.
2. **Review/Approve December Minutes:** Motion to approve minutes from our meeting on December 20th was made by Susan DeMark, seconded by Dawn Elliott. Motion carried. John Orfitelli agreed to post a pdf version with active links (once converted by Caryn Sobel from .doc file).
3. **Incentives for Historic Preservation:** The Commission discussed how to move forward with efforts to obtain 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. John Orfitelli agreed to invite Deputy Town Board Supervision, Dan Torres, to our next meeting in February to obtain his ideas and recommendations for how best to proceed.

4. Historic Landmark Signage

- a) **Interpretive Plaque Design:** Members of the Commission continued to work on collecting materials in the three categories:

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

Dawn Elliott: Agreed to utilize her mother's Ancestry.com account along with a small subset of the names and dates in the spreadsheet records provided by John Orfitelli to determine the viability for using Ancestry.com to obtain family photos or other related information. Based on results from this exploratory exercise, the Commission will consider procuring a subscription to Ancestry.com for use by the HPC to conduct research on the entire list of names.

Caryn Sobel: Contacted our Town historian Susan Stessin-Cohn to solicit her help on this project. Caryn reported that Susan is very interested in supporting the Commission and agreed to conduct research on family histories to create material for the plaque that would provide social context for those buried at the site.

The plaque design team will also utilize [Find A Grave](#) to conduct research into grave records for this site. In order to accelerate the research process, the team agreed to meet in two

weeks. The informal work session is set take place at the Moonlight Café on Friday, February 9th at 5:00pm.

5. **Gateway Committee Update:** A final draft of the Committee report was completed on January 22nd. The final report is planned to be presented to the Town Board in February.

Motion to adjourn was made by Caryn Sobel and seconded by Dawn Elliott. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Next Meeting has been moved to Wednesday, February 28th 2018.