

Town of New Paltz Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
Wednesday January 16th 2013 7:30PM - 9:30PM at the Town Hall

Commissioners attending: John Orfitelli (Chair), Caryn Sobel, and David Gilmour along with Town Board Liaison, Kitty Brown.

Agenda

1. Public Comment
2. Review/Approve Minutes for November
3. Recruitment Activity
4. 2013 Meeting Calendar
5. Landmark Designation Signage
6. CLG Training Session
7. 2013 Grant Application
8. Time-Lapse Photo Project

Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 7:35pm by motion from John Orfitelli and seconded by Caryn Sobel. Motion carried.

1. Public Comment: No public comments were received.

2. Review/Approve Minutes for November: Motion to defer review/approval of meeting minutes for November made by Dave Gilmour was seconded by John Orfitelli. Motion carried.

3. Recruitment Activity: John Orfitelli agreed to provide Carol Connolly (assistant to the Town Supervisor, Susan Zimet) with a copy of the resignation letter from Kathleen Interrante for distribution to the Town Board. In addition, John agreed to request that Carol submit a press release for publication in the New Paltz Times announcing the availability of a position on the Commission.

4. 2013 Meeting Calendar: The Commission agreed to continue meeting on the third Wednesday of each month.

5. Landmark Designation Signage: Caryn Sobel agreed to provide John Orfitelli with the link to the vendor who has supplied landmark designation plaques to the Village HPC. John will contact the vendor to obtain the design used by the Village and pricing structure for review at our meeting in February.

6. CLG Training Session: Dave Gilmour, John Orfitelli, and Caryn Sobel from the Town HPC along with Commissioners from the Village HPC attended a CLG training session with Julian Adams from SHPO on December 17th. Here are notes by John Orfitelli from that meeting:

- Unlike the various government appointed boards such as Planning and Zoning, yearly training is not a requirement by the State but rather is encouraged for members of Historic Preservation Commissions.
- Julian Adams provided both Commissions with an excellent overview and critique of our CLG law and addressed many questions regarding our roles and responsibilities.
- There are significant differences between properties designated as a National Landmark (or that have been listed in the National Register) and a Locally Designated Historic Landmark, namely, only the latter is subject to the limitations imposed by the Historic Preservation Commission through our local CLG law.
- The National Landmark Designation or National Register Listing is a **purely honorific designation**. Changes to properties with these designations are not subject to any federal, state, or local review. There are no constraints imposed by the community i.e. the owner of a property

which is designated as a National Landmark or recorded in the National Register of Historic Places can virtually do anything to the property including tearing it down. There is no oversight or review process for changes as we have with locally designated landmarks. As a result, the Commission will need to consider designation action for all of the known National Landmarks and sites listed in the National Register of Historic Places that are located within the Town of New Paltz.

- Dave Gilmour asked about the feasibility of using a designation based on the National Register model of thematic non-contiguous multiple listings. For example, the State has a thematic listing of all Pre 1940 US Post Offices, and is working on an update to include all eligible ones to ca. 1970. The Town has various scattered farm sites, with houses and barns; several of these are early to mid 18th century stone structures. At one time, the HPC was considering creating a "historic stone buildings" thematic designation that would capture all of these non-contiguous structures.
- In response, Julian provided the following in an e-mail the next day: The City of Chicago's ordinance allows non-contiguous landmark districts. Some examples:
- Black Metropolis District
<http://webapps.cityofchicago.org/landmarkswb/web/districtdetails.htm?disId=6&counter=28>
- Beverly/Morgan Park Railroad Stations District
<http://webapps.cityofchicago.org/landmarkswb/web/districtdetails.htm?disId=5&counter=25>
- Chatham-Greater Grand Crossing District
<http://webapps.cityofchicago.org/landmarkswb/web/districtdetails.htm?disId=281&counter=48>
- Julian also provided a number of documents that illustrate the types of materials other HPC's have created to help educate communities. A guidelines document for rehab and new construction was particularly interesting and may serve as an excellent topic for a future grant.

7. 2013 Grant Application: John Orfitelli submitted a 2013 grant application (for work to be done in 2014) to SHPO on Friday 1/11 (deadline was Tuesday 1/15). The following is the project narrative:

In January of 2010 the Center for Research, Regional Education and Outreach at SUNY New Paltz was commissioned by the Town of New Paltz Historic Preservation Commission to develop an online interactive map to display information on 1669 properties of historic significance in the Town and Village of New Paltz. This project is successfully completed. It has been uploaded to the town web server, and can be viewed at: <http://hpc.townofnewpaltz.com>.

In the course of doing this project; research was conducted to verify an existing reconnaissance level survey (conducted by Neil Larson & Associates, Inc., of Woodstock New York, and funded by a 2003 CLG grant that was awarded to identify and assess historic resources in New Paltz), and to supplement the existing survey data with scanned documents relating to properties of particular interest: the historic churches, schools, and cemeteries in New Paltz. This research was conducted utilizing the Haviland-Heidgerd Historical Collection at the Elting Memorial Library (<http://www.eltinglibrary.org/hhhc/>). This collection includes vast numbers of pictures, newspapers (from 1860-present), census information, and genealogical information.

The Proposal: Continue to build awareness for historic preservation through outreach efforts and to add information associated with the properties displayed in the interactive on-line mapping application by digitizing documents and photographs from available historical records. This project will include the following tasks:

- *Present the On-Line Map Promotional Video created by CRREO in least three well publicized public venues to promote the landmark designation process to create public and private support for the designation of more properties;*
- *Utilize existing historical documents to research up to 20 properties which will be considered for designation as local landmarks by the Town of New Paltz Historic Preservation Commission;*

- Write narrative descriptions, obtain and digitize supporting photographs and documents associated with the properties;
- Organize and upload the collected digital documents to the Interactive Map Web Site and prepare designation packets;
- Utilize designation packets to designate the properties as local landmarks.

This project is designed to have a lasting and beneficial impact on preservation efforts by protecting historical information in the form of digital backups, by disseminating this information to both the public and the local planning boards, and by designating more properties as local landmarks. It builds upon the projects funded by past CLG grants that we received, and has demonstrated the ability to increase the HPC's effectiveness by allowing for instant access to pertinent historical data to inform the decision making process.

It is our belief that this project supports the CLG program's goals in that it advances public education and interest in the history of New Paltz, and the preservation of its historic character, reflects the Historic Preservation Commission's dedication to a long term strategy in the survey and designation of historic properties, and builds local capacity by enhancing the existing paradigm of communication between the commission and owners of local historic properties. Furthermore, this project will directly result in the local designation of more properties.

A Resolution supporting the grant was approved by the Town Board on 1/9. Total project cost is \$8,058. The State's share as shown below is 62% or \$5,008. The remaining funding consists of \$1,000 from the HPC 2014 budget and 2,050 in volunteer labor.

Total Project

State	\$5,008	62%
CLG	\$3,050	38%
Total	\$8,058	

Work Element

CRREO	\$5,008
CLG	
Library (Estimate)	\$1,000
Volunteer Labor	
Caryn	\$1,600 80hrs at \$20/hr
John	\$300 20hrs at \$15/hr
Helen	\$150 10hrs at \$15/hr
Labor SubTotal	\$2,050
Total	\$8,058

8. Time-Lapse Photo Project: The following project narrative submitted with the grant provides an overview of the project and objectives:

The Town of New Paltz Historic Preservation Commission grant proposal for 2012 builds on our prior work to develop an On-Line Interactive Map for history enthusiasts, educators, students, and local home owners to explore the collection of historic facts, pictures, and stories about the wonderful properties that comprise the history of New Paltz.

Part of the process of developing the interactive map was utilizing the Haviland-Heidgerd Historical Collection at the Elting Memorial Library (<http://www.ellinglibrary.org/hhhc/>) to Scan Documents and Photographs to include on the historic Churches, Cemeteries and Schoolhouses in the town. In doing so we became aware of the various historic photographs of buildings and intersections.

The objective of this project is to create "time lapse" animated images (and video clips) that blend from a historic photograph to a recent photograph taken from the same angle. These images will be used to demonstrate the passage of time and to graphically demonstrate both the changes that have come about over time, but more importantly, the historic character that has been maintained in this community. This project will make 10-20 of these animations, and integrate them into the web site.

To achieve this we will contract with the Center for Research Education and Outreach (CRREO) at SUNY New Paltz (the same organization that developed the interactive map). The total cost for this project is \$3,090. Work Elements and Source of funding is summarized as:

Work Element

CRREO Services	\$2,590
Volunteer Labor	\$ 500
Total	\$3,090

Funding Breakdown

State Share	\$1,554
Town Share	\$1,036 (HPC budget)
	\$ 500 (volunteer labor)
Total	\$3,090

In our meeting in November, the Commission outlined several items that needed to be addressed prior to the start of this project (shown below in italics). Several additional ideas for locations from our meeting in December are shown in blue.

- *The project work scope including how many properties and role of the Commission.*
- *Source of reference materials and possible participation by the Elting Memorial Library, Historic Huguenot Street, and the Mohonk Preserve.*
- *Criteria for selection of properties and landscapes.*
- *Site selection: a few examples include: Ohioville, Architectural Classes: Stone Houses, Landscapes such as found at Mohonk Preserve...*
 - *South Putt Corners area (the community prior to development)*
 - *Neighborhood prior to SUNY campus*
 - *Neighborhoods prior to the Thruway*
 - *Main Street (various locations)*
 - *Testimonial Gatehouse*
 - *Intersection at Caanan, Mountain Rest, and Butternville*
- *Commission review and approval process of photos and supporting materials.*

At our January meeting, the Commission addressed the following items:

- **Criteria for Selection:** Emphasis for this grant will be on areas which are threatened by commercial or community development and have minimal resources to mitigate any impact to historically significant properties. Therefore, areas within the Mohonk Preserve, for example, will be excluded since significant resources exist and are being applied to the preservation and restoration of landmarks within that area. Areas of particular interest to the Commission include:
 - Cherry Hill
 - Rt 32 Corridor
 - White Duck Farm
 - South Putt Corners
 - Areas Neighboring SUNY
- **Themes:** Mid-century Modern style structures along with areas considered for district designation will be factored into the decision process.

John Orfitelli agreed to arrange a meeting with Josh Simons and Dave Gilmour to review the grant objectives and clarify roles and responsibilities for the students and Commissioners.

Motion to adjourn was made by Dave Gilmour and seconded by Caryn Sobel. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 9:25.