

Town of New Paltz Historic Preservation Commission Meeting

Wednesday July 18th 2012 7:30PM - 9:30PM at the Village Hall

Commissioners attending: John Orfitelli (Chair), Helen Christie (Vice-Chair), Kathleen Interrante. Also attending were Caryn Sobel who has been nominated for a position on the Commission, Kitty Brown, Town Board Liaison, Josh Simons, and student interns Kim Mas and Brian LaPorte.

Agenda

1. Public Comment
2. Video Grant Status
3. Mohonk Project
4. Review/Approve Minutes from June
5. Open Discussion Items

Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 7:45pm by motion from Helen Christie, seconded by Kathleen Interrante. Motion passed.

1. Public Comment: No public comments were received.

2. Video Grant Status: Josh Simons introduced student interns Kim Mas and Brian LaPorte to the Commission. Kim and Brian along with Morgan Smith, who recently graduated and could not attend, comprised the video development team managed by Josh. Kim and Brian described their work on the video as a valuable learning experience. They played a short trailer of the video which provided a glimpse into how the finished video will appear. Josh Simons and his father completed three music arrangements for guitar which will serve as background to the narration. Josh expects the completed video to be about 30min in length. A short version about 10min in length will also be provided. The Commission was very impressed with the team and their work and is looking forward to viewing the final product at our next meeting in September. A release form for those individuals interviewed in the video will be provided by Josh.

4. Mohonk Project: Leah Manders obtained the contact information for Emily Southgate, a freelance researcher under John Thompson, who is studying histories of the four farms, a house, and the Testimonial Gatehouse to determine how the farms were originally incorporated by the Smiley family. Leah was planning to work with Emily and incorporate data she collected into our Interactive On-Line Map. Since Leah is leaving at the end of August, Caryn Sobel, who is expected to assume Leah's position on the Commission, agreed to continue the project.

5. Review/Approve Minutes from June: Since a quorum of the members from the June meeting were not available, approval of the June minutes will be deferred to our next meeting in September.

6. Open Discussion Items:

- **Caryn Sobel:** John Orfitelli provided Kitty Brown with an e-mail nominating Caryn Sobel for a position on our Commission. Caryn will assume Leah Mander's position (term ends 12/2014) as she will be leaving at the end of August. Caryn will be attending the next Town Board meeting on 7/19 to meet the Board as part of the review/approval process.
- **National Parks Service:** John Orfitelli provided a brief description and link to the Interactive On-Line Map for inclusion on the new National Parks Service Facebook page. The material was posted on June 25th.
- **Town Web Site:** John Orfitelli informed Kitty Brown that since Greg Correll is no longer managing the Town web site, maintenance (including scheduled back-up of data and code) and updates are no longer being addressed.

- **History Education:** The Interactive On-line Map can serve the community in many ways. The Commission discussed exploring a 2013 grant aimed at development of a history curriculum for our local schools which would utilize the On-Line Map as a resource. No further action taken.
- **Mohonk Testimonial Gate House:** Glen Hoagland, Executive Director at the Mononk Preserve, contacted John Orfitelli regarding their application for a \$500K State grant from OPRMP to purchase the 534 acres from OSI and to do an historic structures report on the Testimonial Gateway. John mentioned to Glen that the Commission was planning to designate the Gatehouse as a local landmark and their report could serve to support our designation. Glen agreed to attend our next meeting in September to review their plans for the Gate House. A detailed overview of the Mohonk Preserve Land Asset Management Plan which contains a section on the Gate House is available at http://www.mohonkpreserve.org/sites/default/files/files/PDF/12.06.19_FINAL_MP_LAMP%20rev.pdf.

Motion to adjourn was made by Kathleen Interrante, seconded by Helen Christie. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:50.