

**Town of New Paltz Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
Monday May 5th 2008 7:30PM - 9:30PM at the Town Hall**

Attendees: Town HPC Commissioners Dave Gilmour, John Orfitelli, and Helen Christie. Also attending were New Paltz high school students George Blaha and Shelby Martin observing the proceedings.

Agenda

- 1) Review/Approve Minutes from the February meeting
- 2) Meeting Follow-ups from Prior Meetings
- 3) New Business

Minutes

Meeting started at 7:40, opening for public comment. No public comment was received.

1) Review/Approve Minutes from the February Meeting

The Commission reviewed meeting minutes from the February meeting. A motion to approve the February minutes was presented by Dave Gilmour and seconded by Helen Cristie. Motion carried.

2) Follow-ups from Prior Meetings

a) Mohonk Gate House Entrance Changes

The Town's attorney received input that the Mohonk Gate House site was not part of the National Register as previously understood by the Commission based on an initial review with Lynn Garofalini our regional SHPO representative. Subsequently, the Town Planning Board approved updated plans from Andy Allison, the projects architect, and renovations are in process. Dave Gilmore agreed to check the data base to clarify the areas designated in the National Register and John Orfitelli agreed to follow-up with Lynn Garofalini to obtain any correspondence that was provided to the Town Planning Board.

b) Hampton Inn Proposal

The Commission discussed the need to preserve the character and setting of the cemetery which borders the site being considered for a Hampton Inn. In addition, signage and access to the site will be of particular concern to the Commission if and when the owners decide to proceed with a formal application to the Town. Helen Christie agreed to check the status of activities involving the Planning Board and alert Eric Roth, Director at the Huguenot Historical Society, of the proposal.

c) Geraldine Buck Designation: A new Landmark Designation form was presented by John Orfitelli and reviewed by the Commission. The form will serve to clarify the process and provide a list of reference documentation that can be used to complete research on properties within the Town. Once the form is finalized, John Orfitelli agreed to review the designation process and related form with Geraldine Buck.

c) Terri Sullivan Designation: No new progress to report.

e) The November conference final report was mailed out on 2/28. Tom Olsen, Chair of the Village HPC along with Valerie McAllister did an outstanding job assembling and distributing the report to all attendees and speakers. Copies are available in our file cabinet. All receipts associated with the conference have been collected and the application for recovery of the SHPO portion of the grant expenses is in process.

f) Presentation to Town of Rochester: In response to an invitation from Ward Mintz of the Town of Rochester Historic Preservation Commissioner, John Orfitelli and David Gilmour along with Neil Larson presented an overview of the New Paltz HPC formation, CLG process and experience, and grant activities completed over the past several years. The meeting was held on 4/21 at the Rochester Reformed Church. About 20 residents from the Town tuned out for the presentation which covered the following topics:

- Differences between the Village and Town historic properties.
- Past and Future of historic preservation in the Town.
- Examples of buildings designated. Buildings turned down. Owners claiming hardship and appeals.
- When and how the Commission was started and decision to become a certified local government.
- What have the benefits been and drawbacks if any.
- Landmark designation law: what it contains. What it empowers the Commission to do.
- Educational programs

3) New Business

a) Crossroads EIS: The Commission will review the Historic and Cultural section of the Environmental Impact Statement submitted by Crossroads development for discussion at our next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30.