

# **Town of New Paltz Historic Preservation Commission Meeting**

## **Wednesday February 28<sup>th</sup> 2018 7:00PM - 9:00PM in the Community Center**

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

### **Agenda**

1. Public Comment
2. Review/Approve December Minutes
3. Incentives for Historic Preservation
4. Synopsis of National Trust Webinar
5. Historic Landmark Signage for Put Corners Cemetery
  - a. Interpretive Plaque Design
6. Gateway Committee Update

### **Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm with a motion from Caryn Sobel and seconded by Susan DeMark. Motion carried.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

1. **Public Comment:** No public comments were received.
2. **Review/Approve January Minutes:** Motion to approve minutes from our meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup> was made by Susan DeMark, seconded by Caryn Sobel. Motion carried.
3. **Incentives for Historic Preservation:** John Orfitelli invited Deputy Town Board Supervision, Dan Torres, to share his ideas and recommendations for how best to proceed with 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. Dan Torres was not able to attend. John will contact Dan and extend an invitation to our next meeting in March.
4. **Synopsis of National Trust Webinar:** Caryn Sobel attended the National Trust Webinar on working with easement properties. The speakers emphasized that programs must be clearly documented, with material on requirements and procedures standardized and accessible to all. Transparency and fairness in all stages of the process are important. Qualifications of staff for inspections, reviews, etc. were described and with a discussion of procedures for smaller and/or volunteer organizations. Land Preservation Tax Credit programs were also discussed; a portion of fees can be used to maintain inspection program.

### **5. 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

Ancestry.com will be utilized to explore the names and dates in the spreadsheet records provided by John Orfitelli and hopefully obtain family photos or other related information.

Dawn Elliot and Susan DeMark held an informal work session on 2/15 at the Moonlight Café to organize the research efforts as outlined above. A second meeting at that location is planned for Friday, 3/16 at 6:00pm.

The plaque design team will also utilize [Find A Grave](#) to conduct research into grave records for this site.

Susan DeMark agreed to create a short letter in the New Paltz times requesting information from the public that could provide historical context on those buried at the cemetery.

5. **Gateway Committee Update:** The final report from the Gateway Committee will be presented to the Town Board on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

**Next Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> 2018.**