

Town of New Paltz Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
Tuesday March 16th 2021 7:00PM – 9:00PM via Zoom

Commissioners attending: John Orfitelli (Chair), Susan DeMark, and Matt Maley

Agenda

1. Public Comment
2. Review/Approve February Minutes
3. CPF Advisory Board Update
4. Community Outreach for Historic Preservation
5. Women's History Month

The online Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:04pm with a motion from Susan DeMark and seconded by Matt Maley. Motion carried.

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes:

1. **Public Comment:** No public comments were received.
2. **Review/Approve November Minutes:** The Commission reviewed, and approved [minutes from our February 16th meeting](#) as amended and John Orfitelli agreed to post on our Town web page. C

3. **CPF Advisory Board Update:** John Orfitelli reviewed the use of façade easements with Advisory Board members Cara Lee and Jim DeLaune. All agreed that implementation of a façade easement, while certainly doable, will be much more complex than a conservation easement and require a Trust partner with attorneys, appraisers, and financial experience specific to façade easements.

The HPC will continue to develop contacts, supporting materials, and ultimately a process that will address façade easements which can be incorporated by the CPF Advisory Board into the overall easement review process.

The primary focus of the Advisory Board will be to develop a detailed process and application for conservation easements that can be shared with the Community. Relationships with various local land Trusts is a critical in establishing partners who share similar priorities for projects under consideration by the Board. The Trust will be mainly responsible for managing the execution of the easement process in partnership with the CPF Advisory Board, Town Board, and property owner.

4. **Community Outreach for Historic Preservation:** Commission continue to discuss several ideas aimed at expanding public awareness of landmark designations and the importance of preservation of our historic assets.

The Commission remains focused on creation of a homeowner package specific to each property using the historic data already available from the HPC site along with helpful information about restoration techniques of historic properties. The goal is to gather material for one property into a document and use it as a template that we can replicate for all the historically significant properties. These homeowner packages will be distributed to the respective homeowners who hopefully will learn how their property contributes to the historic fabric of New Paltz.

Susan DeMark agreed to draft an outline for the content and check with the Hudson-Mohawk Vernacular Architecture organization for examples of similar documents that they may already provide. John Orfitelli contacted the Kingston HPC for examples and found they have not done this type of outreach.

The Commission decided to select one historic property to develop a draft package. The format and content would be user friendly with links to resources for additional information on the property and guidance for how to complete repairs on historic structures.

Several ideas included creating a:

- Detailed description of the property, historic attributes, and context within the community.
- Cartoon graphic depicting related historic events particular to the property.
- Graphic timeline showing the how the property evolved from owner to owner.
- Family tree of the ownership with details about the past owners.
- Q&A page to provide a primer on historic designation and why it's important.
- Landing page on the HPC site featuring the property.

The material would also be packaged for use on our Facebook page to promote the property and to encourage participation in the designation process.

5. **Women's History Month:** Susan DeMark and Matt Maley are collaborating on a feature for posting on the HPC Facebook page that will highlight Women's History Month through the accomplishments of a New Paltz woman. The subject is Eliza Varick Silvernail Ackert (1830-1916), who was the first female editor of the New Paltz Times. Matt will create artwork showing Eliza Ackert in the historic context, and the HPC will pair the sketch with text that Susan will write using materials from exhibit content and primary sources, such as Historic Huguenot Street's presentation, [*"In Her Words: A Women's History Tour"*](#).

Motion to adjourn was made by Susan DeMark and seconded by Matt Maley. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Next Meeting will be held via Zoom at 7:00pm on Tuesday, April 20th, 2021.