

Town of New Paltz Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
Tuesday June 15th 2021 7:00PM – 9:00PM via Zoom

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

Agenda

1. Public Comment
2. Review/Approve May Minutes
3. Community Outreach for Historic Preservation
4. HPC Facebook Post
5. CPF Advisory Board Update
6. Other

The online Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:10pm with a motion from Susan DeMark and seconded by Matt Maley. Motion carried.

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes:

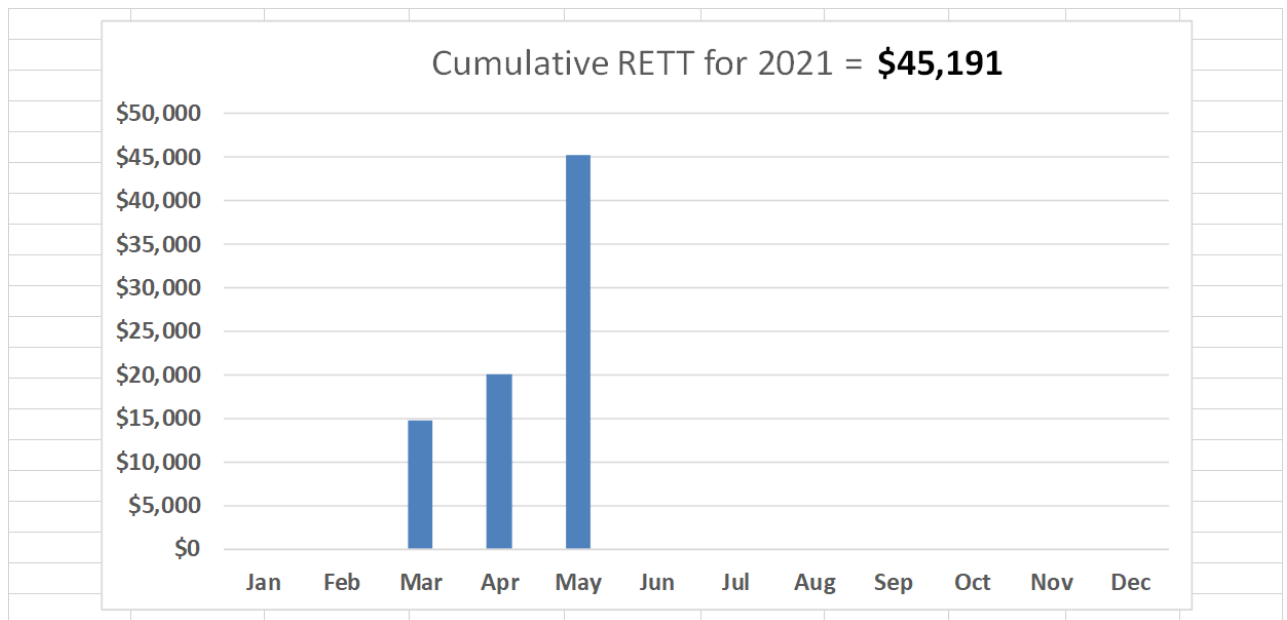
1. **Public Comment:** No public comments were received.
2. **Review/Approve May Minutes:** The Commission reviewed, and approved [minutes from our May 18th meeting](#) as amended and John Orfitelli agreed to post on our Town website.
3. **Community Outreach for Historic Preservation:** The Commission continued work on an information packet that will provide homeowners of historic properties with historic data on their property, restoration techniques, and other related materials. A pilot packet will be created for the property located at 88 South Manheim Boulevard using materials from the [Nomination package](#) along with [supporting materials](#).



Matt Maley completed a wire-frame for the folder and pages that will contain historic data and architectural highlights from the nomination package along with a timeline, map, and references. An example for a timeline was provided by John Orfitelli. Susan DeMark agreed to provide Matt with the copy for use in filling in the wire frame for the various segments. The Commission discussed including the content from the existing Q&A pamphlet created by the Village HPC. John Orfitelli will contact Tom Olsen, Village HPC Chair, to determine their interest in contributing to the project and creating packets for homeowners within the Village.

4. **HPC Facebook Post:** The next HPC Facebook post to highlight historic preservation will be based on the LeFevre house and family. The [Local Designation package and supporting materials](#) for this local historic landmark contain an interesting history of the family that dates back to the Civil War. Susan and Matt agreed to continue work on creating the content.
5. **CPF Advisory Board Update:** John Orfitelli provided the following RETT report with receipts through May.

2021 Actual per UC Clerk					
Month	Receipts	Reported	Qualified	Paid	Not paid
Jan					
Feb	\$0	14	11	0	11
Mar	\$14,673	12	10	4	6
Apr	\$5,355	31	25	2	23
May	\$25,163	25	11	7	4
Jun	\$0	0	0	0	0
Jul	\$0	0	0	0	0
Aug	\$0	0	0	0	0
Sep	\$0	0	0	0	0
Oct	\$0	0	0	0	0
Nov	\$0	0	0	0	0
Dec	\$0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	\$45,191	82	57	13	44



6. **Other:** Eric Roth, Grants Manager at Mohonk Preserve, requested a letter of support for their upcoming grant proposal to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation through the Consolidated Funding Application process. The project will restore the majestic Pin Oak Allée situated on the Lenape Lane Carriage Road at our Testimonial Gateway property.

Susan DeMark provided a statement about our connection to Mohonk Preserve and the Pin Oak Allée for inclusion in the letter template provided by Eric. Here is the completed letter of support (Susan's statement is shown in *italics*):

Town of New Paltz Historic Preservation Commission
June 10, 2021

Erik Kulleseid, Commissioner
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
Albany, NY 12238

Dear Commissioner Kulleseid:

I am pleased to express my support for Mohonk Preserve's Consolidated Funding Application to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation through the Environmental Protection Fund. The project will improve the health and safety of the trees along the Pin Oak Allée, on the Lenape Lane Carriage Road extending from the Testimonial Gateway Tower toward the Shawangunk Ridge. The Allée forms part of the Foothills Loop of the River-to-Ridge Trail that leads to the Village of New Paltz. Part of the broader Foothills Project, it complements a new trailhead opened to visitors in 2020, providing another access point for the more than 300,000 people who visit the Preserve each year.

The Pin Oak Allée was created in 1908-1909 as part of the broader Testimonial Gateway that included the iconic tower and idyllic ponds. For several decades, the site provided a dramatic entrance for Mohonk Mountain House visitors arriving by horse-drawn carriage. Mohonk Preserve has performed routine maintenance on the century old Allée since taking control of the property in 2012, but more significant action is needed to restore it to its former grandeur. Project work includes removing dead limbs, pruning, tree removals, stump grinding, replacement plantings, and habitat inspection.

The Pin Oak Allée is an integral element within the Mohonk Testimonial Gateway, which the Town of New Paltz Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) designated as a local Historic Landmark in 2013. The Allée possesses singular physical characteristics and features, such as trees that are more than 100 years old. This elegant, meditative pathway and its adjacent natural areas have been important to New Paltz and the Hudson Valley for generations. As part of the landmark property, the Allée is a valuable preserved landscape and viewshed, where residents and visitors can enjoy the beauty of the Allée and nearby meadows, farmlands, and foothills as well as the sweep of the Shawangunk Ridge horizon. Careful tending and restoration are crucial to keeping this prized Allée preserved for today and for future generations. We on the Town of New Paltz HPC strongly support Mohonk Preserve's Consolidated Funding Application for this vital endeavor.

Restoring the Pin Oak Allée will enhance and make safer the visitor experience of one of the central features of this premier regional environmental, recreational, and economic asset and accommodate significant anticipated tourism growth in the coming years.

For these reasons, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for this project. Good luck with your application and keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

John Orfitelli
Chair, Town of New Paltz Historic Preservation Commission

Motion to adjourn was made by Susan DeMark and seconded by Matt Maley. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 9:03pm.

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