

**Town of New Paltz Historic Preservation Commission Meeting**  
**Tuesday July 20<sup>th</sup> 2021 7:00PM – 9:00PM via Zoom**

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

**Agenda**

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

The online Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:11pm 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 June Minutes:** The Commission reviewed, and approved [minutes from our June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting](#) 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](#).



Susan DeMark continued to develop the material that Matt Maley will use to fill in the 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. John Orfitelli contacted Tom Olsen, Village HPC Chair, who expressed their interest in collaborating on the project and creating packets for homeowners within the Village.

4. **HPC Facebook:** The next HPC Facebook post by the Commission 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. Matt Maley is expected to complete his sketch that will accompany the text being created by Susan DeMark from the designation materials.

Susan completed a number of posts to our Facebook page. Thanks to Susan and her diligence, our Facebook presence is kept fresh and informative. Historic events from the past, as well as, important local news and topics help sustain interest and positive feedback on our site. Here are a few highlights from this past month:



**New Paltz Town Historic Preservation Commission**

Published by Susan DeMark · July 14 at 10:02 AM ·

Do you love old wooden covered bridges? This essay by Ronald G. Knapp, which the journal Built Heritage has just published, presents three wooden covered bridges built in the 1820s along a 10-mile stretch of the Wallkill River in New Paltz.

"In search of America's old covered bridges"

<https://www.townofnewpaltz.org/.../in-search-of-americas...>



**New Paltz Town Historic Preservation Commission**

Published by Susan DeMark · June 15 ·

From the camp sites that farmers offered the marchers making their way from Selma to Montgomery in 1965 to the tunnels that Chinese workers constructed for the Transcontinental Railroad in the 19th century, these sites on the recently announced list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places are extraordinary. Click through to see this album, from the National Trust for Historic Preservation.







## New Paltz Town Historic Preservation Commission

Published by Susan DeMark · July 3 at 11:15 AM ·



Here's important news about a house being saved that is part of Black History in New Paltz – known as the Oliver House. It was the home of a Black Civil War veteran, his wife, and children. Check out the details, from Village Major Tim Rogers, of the history and the work toward the house's restoration.



## New Paltz Town Historic Preservation Commission

Published by Susan DeMark · June 19 ·

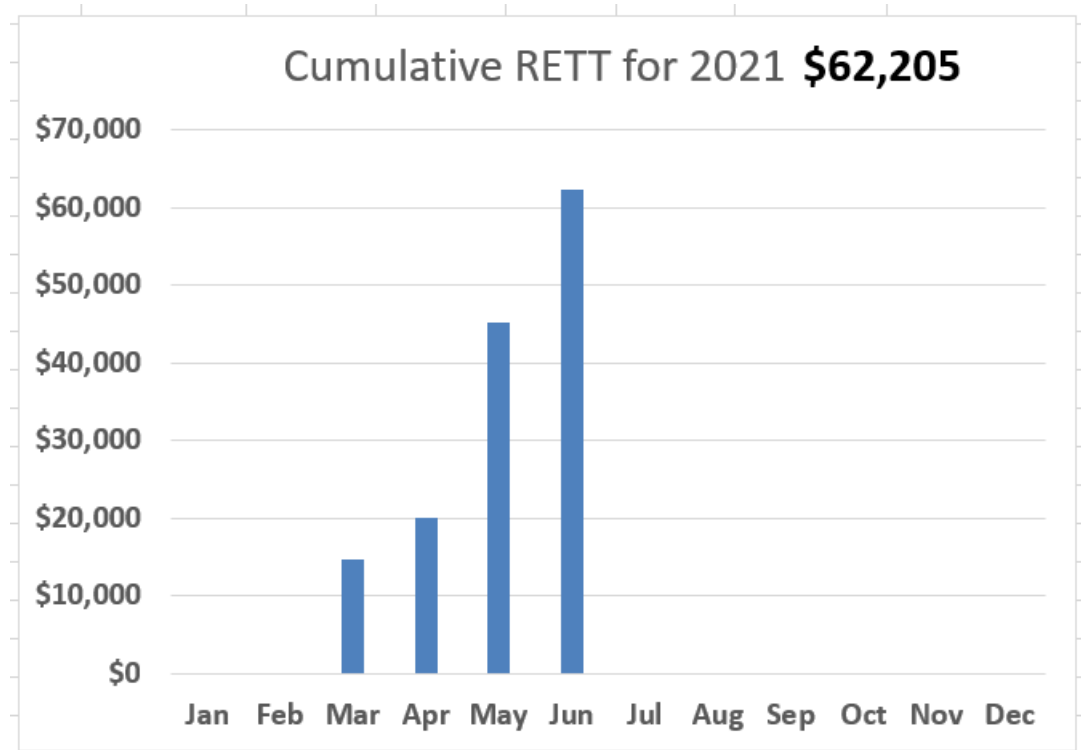


In case you missed it this spring, Historic Huguenot Street has received a \$349,999 grant – from the National Endowment for the Humanities – to preserve and digitize significant historical documents. The documents to be digitized are from Historic Huguenot Street's archival collections, as well as portions from the Town of New Paltz, the Reformed Church of New Paltz, and the Haviland-Heidgerd Historical Collection at Elting Memorial Library. Great news!

<https://www.dailyfr...> See More



5. **CPF Advisory Board Update:** John Orfitelli provided the following RETT report with receipts through June.



6. **Other:**

- **The Village HPC** is working on a homeowner's guide entitled: ***Ductless Air Conditioners and Historic Preservation: A Brief Guide*** that will provide 4 simple guidelines to help a homeowner work with their installer to find an optimal location for the external unit (the compressor or heat pump section of the system). The Town HPC agreed to post the completed guide as part of our supporting materials site page.
- **Put Corners Burial Site:** In a letter to the Village Mayor dated July 12<sup>th</sup>, Dina LaPolt, who grew up in New Paltz and visits frequently with friends and family, stated that *'she was surprised and dismayed to see the cemetery unkempt and neglected, desperately in need of yard maintenance and basic restoration.'* She requested that *'...the Village of New Paltz would make the preservation of the Put Corners Cemetery a priority.'* That same day, the letter was forwarded to John Orfitelli who immediately contacted Liselle LaFrance, President Historic Huguenot Street, to discuss the maintenance issue. She accepted responsibility for the lack of maintenance and requested help from the Town until the HHS staff, which has been cut due to Covid, is restored in the Spring. Town Supervisor, Neil Bettez, agreed to provide maintenance until that time. The following response was provided by Liselle LaFrance to Dina LaPolt:

*Hi Dina,*

*Thank you for bringing the condition of the cemetery to our attention. I have been in correspondence with Village and Town representatives in an effort to resolve the situation.*

*It is true that Historic Huguenot Street is the owner of the cemetery and therefore responsible for its maintenance. However, due to COVID, last year we requested that the Town help out with maintenance, because our staff hours were reduced. The Town agreed. We continue to work on reduced time this year, but our Site*

*Supervisor forgot to reach out to the Town again. Your letter prompted us to reach out to John Orfitelli, Chair of the Town Historic Preservation Commission. He is pursuing maintenance assistance from the Town. In the meantime, our Site Supervisor will do an initial clean up once the weather dries out.*

*Again, thank you.  
Liselle LaFrance*

Shortly after this email, the burial site was mowed and trimmed by HHS.

- **CoA for 46 Libertyville:** [Local architect, James Reynolds](#), contacted John Orfitelli to inquire about the review and approval process for adding a new roof to 46 Libertyville Road which has been designated a local historic landmark. Katherine Schulten purchased the property in March and had discussed the need for a new roof with John prior to her purchase.

At that time, John contacted Neil Larsen for his recommendation which was documented in an email response to Katherine. As a matter of background, here are the emails from that first exchange with Katherine:

*Hi Katherine, thanks again for reaching out to the Commission on your question regarding roof replacement for 46 Libertyville Road. As I described, the property has been designated a [Local Historic Landmark](#) and therefore any changes to the exterior require a [Certificate of Appropriateness](#).*

*After speaking with our historic consultant, a standing seam metal roof would be an acceptable lower cost alternative to the cedar shake roof material. Once you purchase the property, please contact me to arrange a meeting to review your CoA application.*

*Sincerely, John Orfitelli*

Katherine returned with this email:

*Thank you again, John -- and, Susan, Matthew and Dawn, just FYI, I just raved to my husband (copied) about what a lovely phone call I just had with John, who called me not 30 minutes after I left him a voicemail/email, and had ALREADY consulted with the historic expert on our behalf. So helpful and sensible -- if this is the kind of response that's common in New Paltz, boy, we can't wait to move in!*

*Seriously, though, we love that house and its history, but are delighted that we likely don't need to spend over \$100,000 to replace the roof with cedar (the quote we got this weekend).*

*Thank you again, and I hope we're all neighbors soon! Katherine*

James Reynolds has reviewed our correspondence and is now helping Katherine review the roofing material options and will submit a CoA to the Commission for review prior to our next meeting in August.

Motion to adjourn was made by Susan DeMark and seconded by Matt Maley. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:38pm.

**Next Meeting will be held via Zoom at 7:00pm on Tuesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**