

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

### **Wednesday December 19<sup>th</sup> 2012 7:30PM - 9:30PM at the Town Hall**

Commissioners attending: John Orfitelli (Chair), Caryn Sobel, and Town Board Liason, Kitty Brown. Prior to the meeting, David Gilmour notified the Chair he would not be able to attend due to a previous commitment.

New Paltz High School student, Devon Shaw, was also in attendance.

#### **Agenda**

1. Public Comment
2. Review/Approve Minutes from November
3. Update to Arbuckle Designation
4. 2011 Grant Status: Promotional Video
5. 2012 Grant Status: Time-Lapse Photo
6. 2013 Grant Concept
7. State Initiative for On-Line Map Application
8. SEQRA Notice: Park Point Housing
9. Mohonk Projects
  - a. Farms Survey
  - b. Testimonial Gatehouse Designation
10. Landmark Designation Signage
11. CLG Training Session 12/17
12. 2013 Meeting Calendar
13. HPC Brochure

#### **Minutes**

Since a quorum was not in place, no actions could be voted on by the Commissioners in attendance. The following notes document our discussion and items for review at our next meeting to be held on January 16<sup>th</sup>.

**1. Public Comment:** No public comments were received.

**2. Review/Approve Minutes for November:** Deferred to our meeting in January.

**3. Update to Arbuckle Designation:** The Memorandum of Decision for the Arbuckle Designation created by David Gilmour along with a signed Decision Notarization page was submitted to the County Clerk by Town Attorney, Joe Moriello.

The Arbuckle Landmark Designation material, which includes the documentation submitted to the Ulster County Clerk, has been organized into an ordered set of 15 pdf files that comprise the complete designation package. These individual files will now be 'stitched' together into one contiguous pdf and posted on our map site.

**4. 2011 Grant Status: Promotional Video:** The final payment invoice from CRREO (part 3 of 3) was re-issued and is in process for payment by the Town. The final report and our request for reimbursement of the grant match (\$7,000) was prepared by John Orfitelli and submitted to SHPO.

In addition to the on-line presence, a number of DVD's will be delivered for distribution by the Commission.

**5. 2012 Grant Status: Time-Lapse Photo:** In our meeting in November, the Commission outlined several items that needed to be addressed prior to the start of this project (shown below in italics). Several ideas for locations from our meeting in December are shown in **bold**. The Commission will need to review and refine project plans at our next meeting in January. The meeting will include Josh Simons who will present a draft plan and timeline.

- *The project work scope including how many properties and role of the Commission.*
- *Source of reference materials and possible participation by the Elting Memorial Library, Historic Huguenot Street, and the Mohonk Preserve.*
- *Criteria for selection of properties and landscapes.*
- *Site selection: a few examples include: Ohioville, Architectural Classes: Stone Houses, Landscapes such as found at Mohonk Preserve...*
  - **South Putt Corners area (the community prior to development)**
  - **Neighborhood prior to SUNY campus**
  - **Neighborhoods prior to the Thruway**
  - **Main Street (various locations)**
  - **Testimonial Gatehouse**
  - **Intersection at Caanan, Mountain Rest, and Butternville**
- *Commission review and approval process of photos and supporting materials.*

**6. 2013 Grant Concept:** Various concepts for the 2013 grant were discussed. A proposal must be submitted to SHPO by January 15<sup>th</sup>. It was agreed that a video about local history with interviews involving owners of local landmarks would be a terrific way to feature our community and the importance of historic preservation. The grant would be fashioned round our prior video, i.e. total cost: \$9,000, utilize CRREO, and aim for 30min.

The video would include folks such as J. LeFevre , local historians like Al Marks, experts like Carol Johnson, and scholars like Bill Rhodes to present descriptions of local areas and landmarks... discuss changes to community, business, and transportation.

**7. State Initiative for On-Line Map Application:** Josh Simons provided Lorraine Weiss at SHPO with an updated plan to reflect the recommendations from our meeting in Albany.

**8. SEQRA Notice: Park Point Housing:** The cursory review by David Gilmour of the SEQRA Notice will stand and no further action by the Commission will be taken.

**9. Mohonk Projects:** As we learned from the CLG training session, there are significant differences between properties designated as a National Landmark (or that have been listed in the National Register) and a Locally Designated Historic Landmark, namely, only the latter is subject to the limitations imposed by the Historic Preservation Commission through our local CLG law.

The National Landmark Designation or National Register Listing is a **purely honorific designation**. Changes to properties with these designations are not subject to any federal, state, or local review. There are no constraints imposed by the community i.e. the owner of a property which is designated as a National Landmark or recorded in the National Register of Historic Places can virtually do anything to

the property including tearing it down. There is no over site or review process for changes as we have with locally designated landmarks.

Therefore, Caryn Sobel will now focus on research aimed at supporting the designation of the Testimonial Gatehouse. Research on the farms located in the Preserve will proceed after the Gatehouse designation is completed. Caryn has is scheduled to meet with Paul Huth and John Thompson on 12/26.

Furthermore, the Commission will need to consider designation action for all of the known National Landmarks and sites listed in the National Register of Historic Places that are located within the Town of New Paltz.

**10. Landmark Designation Signage:** Discussion was deferred to our next meeting in January.

**11. CLG Training Session:** Dave Gilmour, John Orfitelli, and Caryn Sobel from the Town HPC along with Commissioners from the Village HPC attended a CLG training session with Julian Adams from SHPO on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Unlike the various government appointed boards such as Planning and Zoning, yearly training is not a requirement by the State but rather is encouraged for members of Historic Preservation Commissions.

Julian Adams provided both Commissions with an excellent overview and critique of our CLG law and addressed many questions regarding our roles and responsibilities. See Mohonk status (above) for what was learned about National vs Local designations.

Dave Gilmour asked about the feasibility of using a designation based on the National Register model of thematic non-contiguous multiple listings. For example, the State has a thematic listing of all Pre 1940 US Post Offices, and is working on an update to include all eligible ones to ca. 1970.

The Town has various scattered farm sites, with houses and barns; several of these are early to mid 18<sup>th</sup> century stone structures. The HPC was considering creating an "historic stone agricultural buildings" thematic designation that would capture all of these non-contiguous structures.

In response, Julian provided the following in an e-mail the next day:

The City of Chicago 's ordinance allows non-contiguous landmark districts. Some examples:

- Black Metropolis District  
<http://webapps.cityofchicago.org/landmarkswb/web/districtdetails.htm?disId=6&counter=28>
- Beverly/Morgan Park Railroad Stations District  
<http://webapps.cityofchicago.org/landmarkswb/web/districtdetails.htm?disId=5&counter=25>
- Chatham-Greater Grand Crossing District  
<http://webapps.cityofchicago.org/landmarkswb/web/districtdetails.htm?disId=281&counter=48>

Julian also provided a number of documents that illustrate the types of materials other HPC's have created to help educate communities. A guidelines document for rehab and new construction was particularly interesting and may serve as an excellent topic for a future grant.

**12. 2013 Meeting Calendar:** Due to lack of time, the Commission will discuss if any changes are required to our meeting dates for next year at our meeting in January.

**13. HPC Brochure:** The brochure entitled 'Protecting Our Past for the Future' has been updated by John Orfitelli to reflect the addition of our Promotional Video.

#### **Other Items:**

- **Use of On-Line Map Application to Facilitate Education** Caryn Sobel met with Dr Benjamin and Josh Simons at CRREO to discuss Curriculum Development and the application of the On-Line Map as a tool in education. Caryn will provide an update at our meeting in January.
- **Outreach Effort:** As discussed previously, the Commission needs to utilize the recently completed video in an effort to solicit support for historic preservation within the community. Toward this end, John Orfitelli agreed to create a PowerPoint Presentation for use in conjunction with the Video for presentation to various groups. A list of groups and contacts includes:
  - New Paltz/Gardiner Seniors, Heinz Psaff 255-7290
  - New Paltz Rotary, Andre Venabes, 244-6163
  - Woodland Pond
  - New Paltz Retired Mens Group, Al Marks

In addition, the video will be provided to public access TV.

- **Open Commissioner Position:** Katherine Interrante's term of office expires this month. In her resignation letter to John Orfitelli, Katherine cited a number of personal changes that will prevent her from effectively serving another term. A notice will be posted in the New Paltz Times requesting that interested residents of the Town apply for a position on the Commission.
- **The CLG 2012 Annual Report** has been submitted to SHPO by John Orfitelli. Copies available on request.