

Town of New Paltz Historic Preservation Commission Meeting

Wednesday March 18th 2020 7:00PM – 7:40PM via Zoom

Commissioners attending: John Orfitelli (Chair), Susan DeMark, and Matt Maley, along with Town Historian Susan Stessin-Cohn

Agenda

1. Public Comment
2. Review/Approve January Minutes
3. Community Preservation Survey
4. Annual Report
5. National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) Commission Assistance and Mentoring Program (CAMP) Training Session May 8th
6. Solar Array Guidelines from Red Hook
7. Road Side Markers: Riverside Bank
8. Social Media for New Paltz HPC
9. Bringing Village HPC On Board

Minutes

The on-line meeting was called to order at 7:00pm with a motion from Susan DeMark and seconded by Matt Maley. Motion carried.

Pledge of Allegiance

1. **Public Comment:** No public comments were received.
2. **Review/Approve January Minutes:** The Commission reviewed and approved [minutes from our meeting on January 15th](#) and John Orfitelli agreed to post.
3. **Community Preservation Survey:** [An online survey using Survey Monkey has been created](#) to determine public sentiment for preservation of Clean Water and Open Space, Environmental Conservation, and Historic Preservation. This is considered a prerequisite step toward building support for the referendum. [A post card with the survey URL](#) is ready for mailing to a subset of the New Paltz population as derived by Josh Simons. A [press release has been prepared](#) for release in the New Paltz Times on Wednesday, March 25th. Susan DeMark agreed to also publish a post on our Facebook page with survey URL and requesting our followers to participation in the survey.

Meetings of the Community Preservation Task Force continue to be held every two weeks, on the second and forth Wednesday (now remotely using Zoom). The next meeting is March 25th at 7:00pm. A [Google Drive account with all relevant documentation](#) was created and includes various Community Protection Plans (CPP) (Bethlehem, Chester, Red Hook, Warwick Southampton) and all prior New Paltz plans and recently created plan drafts.

A [Conservation Feasibility Study](#) has been provided by the Trust for Public Land. **This is a comprehensive look at all of the aspects that we face moving forward.** The study includes a [Campaign Timeline](#).

As part of the HPC plan, Matt Maley continues to develop a cost comparison of repair items between an average house vs historic landmark. These costs will serve to support the grant rationale, process, and specifics such as the proposed contributions for various repairs.

4. **Annual Report:** John Orfitelli submitted the [2019 HPC annual report to SHPO](#).
5. **National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) Commission Assistance and Mentoring Program (CAMP) [Training Session May 8th](#):** Members of the Commission at this

meeting were willing to attend the CAMP on May 8th. John Orfitelli agreed to submit a PO to cover the registration fee (\$30 per individual) for all four members.

6. **Solar Array Guidelines from Red Hook:** A recent [article in Hudson Valley Magazine](#) described Red Hook's local law that provides guidelines for solar arrays aimed at preserving the historic character of the area. As property owners of historic properties in New Paltz consider adding solar arrays, the HPC is very likely to encounter requests for guidance. The Commission agreed to examine the [Red Hook local law](#) for future consideration by the Town Board.
7. **Road Side Markers:** John Orfitelli spoke with Dee Harnish, VP Project and Facilities Management at Riverside Bank, who is responsible for community relations, and was very positive about [our funding request for the Lent House marker.](#) John agreed to follow-up with Dee to determine their position on funding.
8. **Social Media for New Paltz Preservation:** Matt Maley created a [Facebook page](#) to promote preservation and (eventually) to solicit support for the upcoming referendum. Over the past couple months the Commission has created a number of posts with existing material from our website. The HPC Facebook page has been very popular and is positioned to be a very effective medium in our upcoming referendum campaign.

Here's a brief summary of the post topics to date:

About Our Town

- Springtown
- Butternville
- Ohioville
- Put Corners
- Middletown
- Jenkinstown
- New Paltz (7 Part Series)
- Libertyville
- Plutarch (2 Part Series)

Then and Now

- Train Station
- Ohioville Hotel
- Van den Berg Building
- 48 Main Street at the Four Corners
- 46 Libertyville Road, Arbuckle Estate
- 58 Main Street, a.k.a. Deyo & Son Store, circa 1893

General Info

- Old House Online Restoration
- Preservation League Action

Q&A's

- What are the benefits of having a Historic Preservation Commission in a town like New Paltz?
- What are the steps required to designate a property as "historic"?
- What exactly does the Historic Preservation Commission do?

9. **Bringing Village HPC On Board:** John Orfitelli spoke with Village HPC Chair, Tom Olsen, regarding the Community Preservation Task Force and how their involvement would be greatly appreciated. Tom was very enthusiastic about getting his Commission involved and was looking forward to participating in the referendum campaign.

Motion to adjourn was made by Susan DeMark and seconded by Matt Maley. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm (40 minutes is the maximum allowed meeting using current Town Zoom account).

Next Meeting will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, April 15th 2020.