

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

### **Wednesday September 19th 2012 7:30PM - 9:30PM at the Town Hall**

Commissioners attending: John Orfitelli (Chair), Helen Christie (Vice-Chair). Also attending were, Kitty Brown, Town Board Liaison, several guests from the Mohonk Preserve (see notes), and Sue Stegen who resides on neighboring High Past Road.

#### **Agenda**

- Public Comment
- Review of Mohonk Gate House Designation Plans
- Video Grant Status
- Mohonk Project
- Review/Approve Minutes from June and July
- Open Discussion Items

#### **Minutes**

Since there was not a quorum present, a formal meeting was not conducted. The following are notes from the meeting.

#### **Review of Mohonk Gate House Designation Plans and the Mohonk Project**

The Mohonk Preserve was invited by John Orfitelli to participate in a discussion of the Commission's plan for designating the Testimonial Gate House as a local landmark. In addition, the Commission sought support from the Preserve to assist with research on the five properties located within the 840 acres being purchased from OSI. Property data along with family histories will be added to the Interactive On-llne Map of New Paltz as part of the Mohonk Project being conducted by Commissioner Caryn Sobel. Representatives from the [Mohonk Preserve](#) attending the meeting included:

- Glenn Hoagland, Executive Director, Mohonk Preserve Inc
- John Thompson, Director of Conservation Science
- Paul Huth, Director of Research Emeritus/Associate Curator
- Bob Larsen, Historian/Naturalist

Glenn Hoagland and John Thompson provided an excellent Power Point overview of the [Land Asset Management Plan](#) which includes the Testimonial Gate House built in 1907. All of those at the meeting embraced the Commission's effort to designate the Gate House as a local landmark and agreed to assist the Commission by supplying historic records, photos, etc. to include in the designation.

Glenn informed the Commission that an initial study of the Gate House structure and condition highlighted the immediate need for repairs to the flat roof to mitigate damage caused by leakage. The total cost for work to 'stabilize' and restore the Gate House so that it can be used as a visitor center will be about \$100k. While several of the windows have been replaced with non-historically accurate windows, one original window remains which will serve as the template for future restoration work.

The five other properties include:

- Kleine Farm\*
- Brooke Farm\*

- Pine Farm
- Turner Farm
- Hasbrouch House

\*currently identified on our map with a Neil Larson inventory sheet completed

Paul Huth and Bob Larsen agreed to provide Caryn Sobel with detailed histories and material for her research. A meeting will be arranged at the Visitors Center to introduce Caryn and review the project.

John Orfitelli suggested that a future grant could be used to create the Mohonk Preserve as a special 'district' outlined on our map in a similar way Hamlets are defined and as was the Historic District within the Village. The Mohonk Preserve could not only include property and landmarks but also information pertaining to the topography such as ponds, trails, cliff features, and marshes that relate to the habitats of animals, birds, and settlers of the area.

Another idea is to include photos of certain areas that have changed dramatically over time as part of our Time Lapse Video grant project. This project, which has been approved by SHPO, will be conducted by CRREO in the Spring and offers a terrific opportunity to highlight the impact of the settlers on the environment.

John suggested that the Preserve create student internships and attend the Intern/Job Fair at SUNY New Paltz along with the HPC and CRREO on Thursday October 4th.

Eric Roth, formally with Historic Huguenot Street, is now at the Preserve serving as Manager of Grants and Organizational Funding. John will be meeting Eric to discuss opportunities for future grant projects, as well as, securing funding directly from OSI for research and restoration of farms and landmarks.

**Video Grant Status:** The video project is scheduled to be completed on 9/28 (Friday) as planned. The final report must be submitted to SHPO by November 1st. John Orfitelli and Josh Simons will be showing the video to the Town Board at their meeting on Thursday September 27th.

***10/2 Update: The video was shown on 9/28 and was very well received. A few changes are being made.. none significant. The plan is to incorporate the video into the Map Site home page using 'flash' so special code will not be required to open and view the video.***