

# Town of Marbletown

## Historic Preservation Commission

Town Hall  
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Rich Parete, Town Supervisor  
Eric Stewart, Town Board Liaison



Commissioners:  
Timothy Hunt, Co-Chair  
Anthony DiGuiseppe, Co-Chair  
Marian McCorkle-Beckerman, Vice Chair  
Doug Adams  
Claudine Brenner, Secretary  
Harry Hansen  
Kathy Schulz  
Marjorie Shelley  
Susan Sprachman  
Laura Shane Cunningham

Marbletown Historic Preservation Commission  
February 9, 2019 Meeting,  
Rondout Municipal Center

### Present:

Tim Hunt, Co-Chair  
Anthony DiGuiseppe, Co-Chair  
Marian McCorkle-Beckerman, Vice Chair  
Claudine Brenner, Secretary  
Doug Adams, Commissioner  
Harry Hansen, Commissioner  
Kathy Schulz, Commissioner  
Susan Sprachman, Commissioner  
Marjorie Shelley, Commissioner  
Laura Cunningham, Associate Commissioner  
Eric Stewart, Town Board Liaison

Invited: Rich Parete, Town Supervisor

Call to order: Quorum, Minutes: Hunt called the meeting to order at 09.40 and welcomed Marbletown town supervisor, Rich Parete.

Parete brought the Commission up to date on town board concerns and the ongoing community discussions regarding accessory apartments. He also clarified the mis-quote attributed to him in the Daily Freeman about the purpose of our CLG Historic Reconnaissance survey.

The minutes of the January 12 meeting were approved, with proposed edits.

### Town Update:

Stewart spoke of the public hearing on accessory apartments, saying that he felt in the first go around most spoke in favor of them. It seemed to him the main concern, however, was that accessory apartments could be operated as airBnBs. He reported that the County Planning Board recommended that certain language be built into the law restricting usage.

Hunt asked how this topic might be relevant to historic preservation. He stated that, for locally landmarked properties, changes to the exterior can be made when the property owner follows the certificate of appropriateness process. Stewart reminded that many people have the misconception that they cannot change anything if landmarked, and are thus reluctant to own a historic home. Hansen mentioned that they may be referring to NYC restrictions, that do not apply here. Stewart suggested drafting a letter to the BSP editor explaining the landmark process and timeline and where to find the information on our website <https://www.marbletown.net/historic-preservation-commission/pages/landmark-designation-application-process>.

Appointment renewals. McCorkle queried Supervisor Parete whether the request for Commission member renewals had been approved yet. He confirmed that the renewal positions passed the town board last week and were all approved: Anthony DiGuseppe, Harry Hansen, Tim Hunt and Susan Sprachman were all renewed for another 4 years, until December 2022. Affidavit: Parete advised that the town lawyer had reviewed the affidavit drafted for county consideration documenting a homeowner's acknowledgment that their home had been locally landmarked if so relevant and approved it.

HPC Historic District input: Hunt clarified again that we were receiving inappropriate requests for approvals from the code inspector on permit requests for properties which are not landmarked. He did, however, remind Parete that the HPC does want to have input on plans submitted for federally designated historic districts. Parete said Building Inspector, Dave Allen, was getting new software so that all town offices would be linked and that properties could now be flagged for HPC review. DiGuseppe suggested drafting an informal town protocol that would trigger a HPC feedback process. Parete was open to this idea.

Other Business: Sprachman mentioned a Celebration of High Falls' 350 years this Sunday at the High Falls fire station at 3pm.

Stewart talked about ongoing work linking the rail trail and park in High Falls; he brought up the stone mill edifice near the falls and added the Commission may want to look into designating it.

Reconnaissance Survey Update: Hunt summarized progress with a revised timeline for survey completion by April 1st, with an interim report due April 1st, and final report due in September; there should be two town meetings to present the findings in the fall.

396 properties have been recorded so far. Surveyors have been following the tax list as a guideline, however, some properties are not on the tax list (e.g. cemeteries, churches, Bevier House) and the target number had to be renegotiated. We agreed that the commission would take leadership on the in-depth history for the Van Aiken farm (a grant deliverable) to free up time and expense for the consultant surveyor to add 150 properties to the survey. Hansen agreed to take leadership on this property write-up.

Regarding input of data for additional historic sites (foundations, quarries, cemeteries, etc), Hansen suggested asking SHPO how to get training to certify select commission members to enter the data. Hunt stated he thought the state had said originally that two or three could be trained on Cris Trekker. He will follow-up with a request.

Workshop training:

Hunt suggested Hansen hold a 1hr30 workshop on writing an application for historic designation.

The workshop would also provide an explanation of relevant tax credits and code of ethics training.

Hansen suggested we might consider requesting a CLG grant to train other CLGs to evaluate a property in the future.

Landmarking homes:

Rockcliff house: DiGuseppe reported that there were no updates, although the owner had stated she was interested in landmarking the property after restoration. Renovation work has not yet started.

Blue Stone Press article: Tax credit: DiGuseppe will put together an article to explain the process. The website can be highlighted for new information and resources.

SHPO Statewide Preservation Conference:

To be held in Rochester NY, April 25-27 this year.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10.50 AM. The next meeting is scheduled March 9th.

Respectfully submitted,  
Claudine Brenner