

Palmyra Preservation Commission Meeting
July 9, 2009

Present: Christine Daly, Vicky Daly, Jim Elliott, Mike Haskins, Mitch Smith.

Guests: Julian Adams from SHPO; Katie Comeau from The Landmark Society of Western New York.

Absent: Judy Zanin.

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

Julian Adams, the NY State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Certified Local Government resource person, addressed the commission members regarding their tasks as preservation commission members.

He shared the following:

- There is a list serve with Yahoo Groups which is an ongoing conversation regarding CLG topics. It's called NYSCGLS. Expert advice is available via this list serve.
- National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) is another resource – it is out of University of Georgia. They have a quarterly magazine and list serve.
- There is a grant for the Landmark Society for CLG training; 6 distinct CLGs are applying together for it.
- He reminded the members that Historic Preservation is for “managing change” as opposed to preventing change. A commission member’s role is to be (in part) an educational resource, and to protect the character of a contributing building and still allow change.
- Julian publishes The Local Landmarker, a newsletter which provides information to preservation commissions and CLGs. He said it is available online by Googling “NYS certified local government”
- When Julian started his position at SHPO, he found that there were 3 things CLGs especially needed assistance with, and he addressed these issues in his first few issues of The Local Landmarker.
 - o How to run a meeting (Process)
 - o How to make decisions based on objective criteria (Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation)
 - o Familiarity with their local law.
- Julian suggested that one commission member act as parliamentarian
- Julian discussed “taking”, and that the courts have upheld that preservation commission’s limiting of changes to a property is not a “taking”. Hardship rules are included in successful preservation ordinances. Owners are entitled to a reasonable return on their property,

not necessarily the most profitable return. Julian pointed out that hardship claims come after the initial denial of the certificate of appropriateness.

- The topic of windows is a controversial one – Julian devoted an issue of the Local Landmarker to windows.
- Julian recommended having public workshops on designation, to build a track record of trust with the public.
- Julian showed the commission a brochure put out by Owego, and he recommended that Palmyra do something similar. Mayor Daly said that she would try to obtain a copy for our commission.

Submitted by C. Daly