

Village of Penn Yan
Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.
Village Hall, 111 Elm Street, Room 202

Present:

Andy Baus, Chair
Benjamin Lerman

Jennifer Randol
Kelly Saner

James Marshall, CEO
Katie Tomlinson, Secretary

Public:

Kathy Gernold

The meeting was called to order by A. Baus at 5:34 p.m. After roll call, a quorum was confirmed.

Applications for Certificate of Appropriateness

23 Main Street – install signage on above entrance façade for new business.

On behalf of the applicant, K. Gernold with KG Graphics described a proposal for signage that includes vinyl decals for the transom window above the entrance and a two-sided sign that will hang perpendicular to the building from a sign bracket. J. Randol asked what will the business does, and K. Gernold explained that the business will offer bug-art and live edible bugs. J. Randol asked why “enter at your own risk” in a scary font. K. Gernold explained that the shop owner wanted something catchy. A. Baus asked if this has been discussed with Milly’s, the owner of the building. K. Tomlinson responded that Milly’s director reached out today to say that they have three of their newly renovated spaces rented. K. Gernold added that the owner wanted the sign to attraction the attention of drivers while waiting at the light. B. Lerman stated that the signs are appropriate, not gawdy. J. Randol added that they are easily removeable. K. Gernold noted that it’s nice to have different stores for visitors to meander through.

Motion by B. Lerman to approve the application for 23 Main Street as submitted, seconded by E. Wunder and carried all in favor.

173 Main Street – paint selection for previously painted brick exterior.

The applicant was not able to attend the meeting. Commissioners raised concern over the shade of blue titled Prussian Blue, noting that the shade looks nice superimposed on the structure, but that the swatch alone appeared bright. It was observed that the blue varies in appearance depending on the print source or electronic screen. B. Lerman noted that a hue can vary based on lighting and application and that for an Italianate-style – over hangs and corbels – two-tone is period appropriate. It was noted that two of the of the selected colors are from Benjamin Moore’s Colonial Williamsburg historic line. A. Baus explained that properly preparing surfaces for painting is important for its appearance. J. Marshall pointed out that a professional painter will complete the work. The proposed sign will utilize existing posts where a different sign once was. Commissioners thought the shade of red selected for the front door was nice. E. Wunder noted that a paint swatch can look completely different once applied – surrounding colors and location can influence how it is seen.

Motion by K. Saner to approve the colors and sign for 173 Main Street as submitted, seconded by J. Randol and carried all in favor.

219 Clinton Street – install hand railings on two front porch steps.

The applicant was not in attendance. It was noted that the existing steps do not have railings, a picture of the proposed craftsman-style railing the applicant would like to build was submitted. J. Marshall mentioned that the applicant does good work and will make it look nice and that a handrail is better than no handrail. A craftsman-style railing in the same color, white, is tasteful. B. Lerman stated that handrails would meet code requirements. J. Marshall added that the foundation and chimney have been repaired. J. Randol thinks white will look good, noting that none of the existing details will be touched. It was further noted that the wood will need to dry for at least a year before it can be painted so that it doesn't fail.

Motion by E. Wunder to approve the application for 219 Clinton Street as submitted conditioned that the railings are painted white by Spring of 2027 after the pressure-treated lumber dries, seconded by B. Lerman and carried all in favor.

Commissioners acknowledged that the proposal is not perfect, but represents a significant improvement.

There were no questions, comments or concerns with the minutes from the February 10, 2026 Historic Preservation Commission meeting.

A. Baus welcomed B. Lerman as a full member of the Commission.

Renew NAPC Membership

A. Baus noted that if each Commissioner takes just two classes, that alone would cover the \$150 membership fee – it's a fantastic expenditure. B. Lerman added that being part of a professional organization provides legitimacy and shows the Commission's interest in Historic Preservation – it makes sense.

Motion by K. Saner to renew one-year membership to the National Alliance of Preservation Commission at a cost of \$150, seconded by A. Baus and carried all in favor.

A. Baus thanked Commissioners for doing their training and noted that the NAPC Forum for 2026 will be held in Minneapolis, MN. J. Marshall attended the Forum held in Poughkeepsie last year. Commissioners will consider attending when a local venue is chosen. It was noted that some of the older NAPC recorded trainings don't offer a certificate of completion, making it difficult to prove attending. Commissioners were encouraged to submit a message, include a screenshot or other similar proof, so that there would be something to be record and track. A. Baus reminded that all Commissioners were reappointed for one year and that the oath book will need to be sign within the month.

Motion by E. Wunder to adjourn at 6:02 p.m., seconded by J. Randol and carried all in favor.

Submitted by Katie Tomlinson