

The regular meeting of the West Seneca Historical Preservation Commission was called to order by Chairperson Lang at 6:35 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present:

1. Paul Lang, Chairperson
2. Ray Ball
3. Fran D'Amico
4. Michael Siuta

Absent:

5. Maureen Barbary (excused)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Ball, seconded by Ms. D'Amico, to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2026 meeting.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Motion: Carried

OLD BUSINESS

- Review of CLG Grant Outcome & Next Steps

Chairperson Lang reported that the Commission was not approved for the Certified Local Government (CLG) grant application submitted in October. The New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) cited a high volume of strong applications for the decision. Chairperson Lang reported on a discussion with the CLG coordinator, who confirmed that it is common for CLGs to rely on grant cycles and that the Commission is not unusual for not having a dedicated budget for such projects. A key factor in the grant denial may have been the lack of a direct cash match from the Town of West Seneca, as only volunteer hours were leveraged.

Mr. Ball suggested the Commission request a line item in its budget to be used exclusively for matching funds for future grant applications. Chairperson Lang agreed, noting the need to invest now to secure future funding, and will prioritize a discussion with Councilmember Robertson to advocate for the budget request.

- 919 Mill Landmark Nomination Review / Process Review

Chairperson Lang reported that to have a public hearing for the 919 Mill Road landmark nomination at the March 4th meeting, the notice must be advertised in the newspaper by February 12th and the agenda given to the clerk's office by February 4th. Chairperson Lang stated he would submit the agenda and nomination packet to meet this deadline, allowing for the public notice period and subsequent vote at the March meeting.

- Demolition Ordinance Update

Chairperson Lang reported that he spoke with the Town Attorney, who is actively working on the demolition ordinance. The attorney anticipates presenting it for adoption in February or March and expects the entire process to take approximately 60 to 90 days.

NEW BUSINESS

- Review of 555 Meyer Rd for SEQR Compliance

Chairperson Lang presented a SEQR (State Environmental Quality Review) notice regarding a proposal for a new commercial storage building at 555 Meyer Road. The Commission is a required commenting agency. Mr. Ball reported that the site is undeveloped and largely consists of a sand pit with no structures of historical significance. After discussion, the Commission concluded that the project would have no impact on historical resources.

Motion by Mr. Ball, seconded by Ms. D'Amico, to authorize Chairperson Lang to draft and send a letter to the appropriate Town department stating that the Historical Preservation Commission has no objection to the proposed project at 555 Meyer Road, as the site contains no historical significance.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Motion: Carried

ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC

None.

COMMUNICATIONS BY BOARD MEMBERS

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Mr. Ball, seconded by Mr. Siuta, to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 PM.

WEST SENECA COMMUNITY CENTER
1300 UNION ROAD
WEST SENECA, NY 14224

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Motion: Carried

WEST SENECA HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 4, 2026

Respectfully submitted by Matthew Fincel

Secretary to the Historical Preservation Commission

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew F. Fincel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "F" and a long, sweeping underline.