



Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Agenda

Monday, March 2, 2026 - 3:00 PM

City Offices (Building 18, Legacy Plaza) - Large Conference Room
303 W 4th St N, Suite 501
Newton, IA 50208

- I. Roll Call
- II. Review of Minutes of Previous Meeting:2.2.2026
- III. Items from City Staff
- IV. Items from Commissioners
- V. Items from Citizens
- VI. Adjourn

ADA Compliance: The City of Newton is pleased to provide reasonable accommodations, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, for those individuals or groups who require assistance in being able to participate in the meeting. Please contact the Community Development Department at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting by calling 641-792-6622 to arrange for accommodations to be provided.

Chair: Larry Hurto; **Members:** Wes Ranard, Rita Reinheimer, Toni Peska, Kelly Bennett

Meeting Minutes

NEWTON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Community Development/Community Services/Public Works
Large Conference Room
303 West 4th Street North, Suite 501
Newton, IA 50208

Date: February 02, 2026

Time: 3:00 pm

Meeting called to order by: Chair Hurto

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Hurto, Reinheimer, Peska, Ranard, Bennett

Board Members Absent: -

Staff and Others Present: Varsha Borde – Sr. City Planner
Nicholas Alexander – City Planner
Mark Hallam – Council member
Erin Yeager – Main St. Executive Director
Ewa Long – Property owner - old NDN building
Ethney McMahon

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Chair Larry Hurto questioned if there was anyone present that may require special assistance in being able to participate in this public meeting. There was no response.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Hurto to approve minutes; **Seconded by** Peska. **Approved** with minor grammatical corrections by VV (5-0)

CERTIFICATION OF IOWA OPEN MEETINGS LAW

Borde confirms.

ITEMS FROM CITY STAFF

- National Register Nomination – Maytag Plant No. 1 – After introductions, Sr. City Planner Varsha Borde clarified that the nomination of the Maytag Plant No. 1 would include all the buildings in the Maytag District.

- End of year report –**Motion** by Peska and **Seconded** by Bennett to approve the 2026 Annual Report to be submitted with minor updates. VV (5-0)
- Historic signage will be discussed at the next meeting

ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- Ranard – None
- Reinheimer –Mentioned that the Treasurer of the Newton-Grinnell DAR had asked regarding the plaques.
- Peska – Inquired regarding the Maytag Family Foundation grants.
 - Bennett – Asked if there was interest among the commissioners to attend the Downtown Dreams event.
 - Hurto – Larry’s HPC February 2, 2026
 - On January 16, I received an email from Housing Director Bruce Showalter, of Newton Housing Development Corp., informing me of a call he received the day before from 90-year-old Lee Blackledge, who used to live here in the 1950s. Bruce said he called about Lincoln Court, wanting to know how many homes there were in that development. Commissioner Reinheimer was able to help me out. She reports that the 1950 Federal Census listed 43 units, mostly duplexes, at that time. Bruce said he also was interested in securing a copy of Newton Main Street's "Stories from Downtown." I called Mr. Blackledge on January 26. He now lives in South St. Paul, MN About 1950 he got a job washing dishes at Snook Inn. He then went to work for Frank Stockton. On January 30, I emailed Mr. Blackledge and received an email back from him which I'll share with the Commission. He's since got back to me two more times, asking if I know anything about Metz, etc.
 - On January 31, I assisted Phyllis Peter at the Newton Public Library Information desk, with information re: the Wittemberg Manual Labor College (1855-c. 1871)
 - I'm planning to give our annual report to the Newton City Council on February 16.

ITEMS FROM CITIZENS –

- Erin Yeager mentioned that the Gray Moon Market opening on Jan 17th was a success. There was a good crowd. Congresswoman Miller Meeks attended the VIP event. Yeager mentioned that a new business would be coming to the Maytag Hotel diner space and a new Hispanic grocery store would be coming to downtown.
- Ewa Long let the commission know that she had purchased the old Newton Daily News building and was visiting Newton to have it inspected. Long also mentioned that the site inventory for the building shows a different address than the street address. (120 instead of 200 1st Ave E)

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE AND/OR DEPT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS.

Was emailed prior to the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by Peska, **Seconded by** Reinheimer, **Approved** 5-0 by VV. Adjourned at 4:02 pm.