



Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Agenda

Monday, June 1, 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:5.4.2026
- III. Items from City Staff
- IV. Items from Commissioners
- V. Items from Citizens
- VI. Communications from SHPO, IEDA, Dept. of Cultural Affairs or any other entity with information relating to Historic Preservation
- VII. 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

HPC 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: May 04, 2026

Time: 3:00 pm

Meeting called to order by: Chair Hurto

ROLL CALL

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

Board Members Absent:

Staff and Others Present: Varsha Borde – Sr. City Planner
Nicholas Alexander – City Planner
Mark Hallam – Council member
Erin Yeager, Executive Director Main Street

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 Ranard to approve minutes of special meeting; **Seconded by** Reinheimer. **Approved by** VV (5-0)

CERTIFICATION OF IOWA OPEN MEETINGS LAW

Borde confirms.

ITEMS FROM CITY STAFF

- Sr. City Planner Varsha Borde updated the commission on the progress being made regarding the historic signage.
- Borde also shared Newton's first ever zoning ordinance and map.

ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- Peska - None
- Bennett - None
- Ranard – None

- Reinheimer – None
- Hurto – Larry’s HPC Report – May 4, 2026
 1. On April 14, I met with members of the Woodrow Wilson Elementary School open house/celebration committee at the school. The school is closing its doors at the end of the present school year. A celebration is being planned for Alumni Weekend, Saturday, June 13, from noon to 3:00 p. m., that will feature tours, displays, and refreshments. The Jasper County Historical Society is loaning a file of photos and other materials from their collections for display and/or publication. I’ll be meeting with the committee two more times, on May 12 and May 26.
 2. On April 27, I signed a letter endorsing Newton’s application to host the 2027 Iowa Downtown Conference. I’m told that the application has been made by former Mayor Evelyn George.
 3. I have been appointed Archivist for the Jasper County Historical Society. I also hold this office for the Colfax Historical Society.
 4. Ms. Borde informs me that I am now registered for the 2026 Preserve Iowa Summit to be held in Ankeny on June 2-3.
 5. On April 29, Senior Reporter Todd Magel, of KCCI-TV, reported that two historic buildings near the Pappajohn Sculpture Park in downtown Des Moines may soon be renovated as part of a preliminary plan. Des Moines City Council Member Josh Mandelbaum shared his thoughts on the importance of preserving the Butler building and the Jefferson apartment building, located at 15th St. and Grand Ave. Todd’s report can be seen at <https://www.kcci.com/article/historic-buildings-in-downtown-des-moines-set-for-potential-restoration/71167210>.
 6. I have been asked to give the Memorial Day address at Wittemberg Cemetery 3-4 miles north of Newton. I was honored to give the Memorial Day address there on May 26, 2014.

ITEMS FROM CITIZENS –

- Erin Yeager let the commissioners know of a sign that was recently put up in the historic district and that the sign covered historic elements of the building. Yeager pointed out that the DT Design guideline standards do not apply to the building as no grant funds had been used for the signage. Yeager told the commissioners that if they were in favor of having signage, façade or other changes in the historic district be made as per the historic design guidelines, they would have to adopt the guidelines for all of the district irrespective of grant funds being used. The commissioners showed interest in adopting the Design Guidelines for the Historic District and were in favor of addressing the matter.
- Yeager let the commission know that the Jewel building had been sold, a new business ‘Sip and Sweet’ was replacing the space originally occupied by nail salon, the old NDN building status.
- Mark Hallam talked about the ‘Preservation at its Best award’ application that was submitted. Hallam also talked about the organization called Liberty Tree that was making disease resistant 18’ tall American Elm trees available to CLGs through a program called ‘Lighting the Future’.

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

Was emailed prior to the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by Peska, **Seconded by** Bennett, **Approved** 5-0 by VV. Adjourned at 3:38 pm.