

Landmarks Commission Meeting Agenda

July 17, 2025 6:00 PM

New Berlin City Hall

Conference Room A/B

Published: 7.8.2025

- 1) CALL TO ORDER
- 2) ROLL CALL; DECLARATION OF QUORUM; PUBLIC NOTICE
- 3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Thursday, April 17, 2025
- 4) TREASURER'S REPORT
- 5) COMMUNICATIONS
 - A. Report from the Chair
 - B. Update on archived information – Commissioners Tyskiewicz and Warzak
 - C. WAHPC Conference – Commissioner Marquardt
- 6) OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Replacement of Landmark signs in New Berlin Center, Holy Apostles, Sunny Side and German Evangelical Protestant Cemeteries
- 7) NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Discussion and possible nomination of the Milwaukee Astronomical Society for Historical Landmark Status
 - B. 2026 Budget
 - C. Possible Future Commission Projects
 - D. Information from former Chairperson Laurie DeMoss
 - E. Recognition of Service for former Chairperson Laurie DeMoss
- 8) SET MEETING DATE
- 9) ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES OF THE LANDMARKS COMMISSION MEETING
APRIL 17, 2025
CITY HALL
CONFERENCE ROOM A/B

I. Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Orzel at 6:05 PM.

Present: Chairperson Orzel, Alderman Harenda, Commissioners Marquardt, Tyskiewicz and Warczak.

Excused: Vice-Chairperson Ament.

II. Declaration of Quorum; Public Notice.

III. Approval of Minutes

March 20, 2025 Landmarks Commission Minutes.

MOTION: Motion to Approve.

VOTE: Motion by Commissioner Warczak.

Second by Commissioner Marquardt.

Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Treasurer's Report – Commissioner Warczak.

A. Commissioner Warczak reports that there is currently \$1,915.00 in the Treasury.

B. Commissioner Warczak asked for reimbursement for ink cartridges used to print out Chapter 4 of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan for use in proofreading.

MOTION: Motion to Approve Reimbursement to Commissioner Warczak for Ink Cartridges.

VOTE: Motion by Commissioner Tyskiewicz.

Second by Commissioner Marquardt.

Motion passed unanimously.

V. Communications.

A. Alderman Harenda passed out a chart detailing responsibilities of the Landmarks Commission and the Clerk's Office regarding Meeting Agendas and Minutes. Also, included in the chart are the responsibilities of the DCD regarding Permitting, Mapping and Asset Management.

B. Alderman Harenda will take charge of sending the formal certificate of Landmark Status to the current owners of the Gilbert/Shroeder/Hofmann Home, as this certificate was recently found in storage.

C. An informational handout pertaining to the "Landmark Application and Presentation Process" was distributed to all attendees.

VI. OLD BUSINESS.

A. Replacement of Landmark signs in New Berlin Center, Holy Apostles, Sunny Side and German Evangelical Protestant Cemeteries.

B. Discussion and possible approval of Chapter 4 of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan.

MOTION: Motion to Remove Tabled Item.

VOTE: Motion by Commissioner Warczak.

Second by Commissioner Tyskiewicz.

Motion passed unanimously.

1. The Commission went page-by-page through the chapter to make certain that all the information was correct and correctly presented with applicable photos.

MOTION: Motion to Approve Chapter 4.

VOTE: Motion by Commissioner Marquardt.
Second by Commissioner Warczak.

Motion passed unanimously.

VII. NEW BUSINESS.

VIII. NEXT MEETING: JUNE 19, 2025 AT 6:00 PM – CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM A/B.

IX. ADJOURNMENT at 9:16 PM.

MOTION: To Adjourn.

VOTE: Motion by Commissioner Tyskiewicz.
Second by Commissioner Marquardt.

Motion passed unanimously.

**Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Tyskiewicz
Landmarks Commission Secretary**

ACCOUNT DETAIL HISTORY FOR 2025 00 TO 2025 13

ORG YR/PR	OBJECT JNL	PROJ EFF DATE	SRC REF1	REF2	REF3	CHECK #	OB	AMOUNT	NET LEDGER BALANCE	NET BUDGET BALANCE
15280000	54110		SUPPLIES							
										REVISED BUDGET
										2,000.00
25/01	79	01/29/25	API 138096		241069	277564		40.00	40.00	
	W	012925-1	2025 MEMBERSHIP DUES-LANDMARKS WAHPC							
25/04	12	04/09/25	API 000316		243335	278473		15.00	55.00	
	W	040925	HISTORIC RESOURCE WEBINAR-LAND MARQUARDT ANNE							
25/04	12	04/09/25	API 015275		243336	278492		15.00	70.00	
	W	040925	HISTORIC RESOURCE WEBINAR-LAND ORZEL PATTI							
25/04	12	04/09/25	API 013114		243334	278529		15.00	85.00	
	W	040925	HISTORIC RESOURCE WEBINAR-LAND WARCZAK, MICHAEL E &							
25/05	44	05/14/25	API 013114		244459	278970		63.99	148.99	
	W	051425	2025 INK REIMB-LANDMARK COMM WARCZAK, MICHAEL E &							
LEDGER BALANCES --- DEBITS:					148.99	CREDITS:	.00	NET:	148.99	
GRAND TOTAL --- DEBITS:					148.99	CREDITS:	.00	NET:	148.99	

5 Records printed

** END OF REPORT - Generated by Thu Van Hintz **

YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET REPORT

FOR 2025 07									
ACCOUNTS FOR:	528	LANDMARKS	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANFRS/ADJSTMTS	REVISED BUDGET	YTD EXPENDED	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USED
15280000	54110	SUPPLIES	2,000	0	2,000	148.99	.00	1,851.01	7.4%
		TOTAL LANDMARKS	2,000	0	2,000	148.99	.00	1,851.01	7.4%
		TOTAL EXPENSES	2,000	0	2,000	148.99	.00	1,851.01	

YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET REPORT

FOR 2025 07

	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANFRS/ADJSTMTS	REVISED BUDGET	YTD EXPENDED	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USED
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GRAND TOTAL	2,000	0	2,000	148.99	.00	1,851.01	7.4%
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** END OF REPORT - Generated by Thu Van Hintz **

New Berlin Center Cemetery

This historic cemetery was built on land donated around 1840 by Publius Virgil "P.V." Monroe who served as the first town clerk. Monroe is often credited with persuading the town council to change the name of the Town of Mentor to New Berlin in honor of the town in New York that many of the earliest settlers, including Monroe, called home.

New Berlin Center is the oldest cemetery in New Berlin. The large, ornate gate at the entrance serves as a reminder to visitors that they are leaving the everyday world and entering a spiritual realm.

In 1837, Mr. Kline, a German who worked in a blacksmith shop was the first death in the pioneer community. It is likely that Mr. Kline was buried in this cemetery, but there are no existing records.

The first recorded burial on February 15, 1841 was Harriet E. Monroe, the six-month-old daughter of P.V. Monroe and his wife, Cordelia. Cordelia was later buried in the family plot at the age of 41 in 1855. P.V. followed in 1861 at the age of 47.

A portion of the cemetery was reserved as a potter's field for the burial of transient and indigent individuals. There are no grave markers or monuments in the potter's field.

A cemetery association was established in 1857. Daniel Ewer was the first director. The Boyd family served as caretakers from 1910 until July 2021 when management of the cemetery was transferred to the City of New Berlin.

The family names of the early pioneers who lie at rest here include Boyd, Meidenbauer, Winton, Killips, Monroe, Church, and Korn. Veterans of several wars are also buried here; seven fought in the Civil War.

New Berlin Center Cemetery was designated as a historic landmark on November 21, 2013. It remains an active cemetery.

SUNNYSIDE CEMETERY

This historic cemetery was opened in 1841 as a gift to church members by Yankee pioneer Rev. Rufus Cheney, founder of Wisconsin's First Freewill Baptist Church.

Among the first burials were Henry B. Cheney, the infant grandson of the pastor, on August 26th, 1841, and 33-year-old Anliza Cheney, the wife of the pastor's son, John, in December of 1842.

In contrast to these short lives, Rev. Cheney lived to age 89 (1780-1869) and his son to age 97.

In 1887, John Cheney formally deeded 1.3 acres to the newly-formed Sunnyside Cemetery Association, and additional land from the Blott Farm increased the acreage of the cemetery.

Veterans from six wars are buried here including eighteen from the Civil War. Notable is the monument of Dr. John Ingersoll listing three babies who were all named Robert in honor of the doctor's brother, Col. Robert Ingersoll. All three infants lived less than a year.

Other early pioneers who lie at rest here include the Hales, Blotts, Beardsleys and Parmenters.

Sunnyside Cemetery was designated as a historic landmark on November 21st, 2013.

New Berlin Landmarks Commission – 2024

HOLY APOSTLES CEMETERY

In 1855, Bernard Casper, a farmer, cooper and proprietor of the Casper Inn, presented the Catholics of the community with a three-acre parcel of land to be used for a church and cemetery. More land was added over the course of the next century to accommodate the needs of the growing Catholic congregation.

In 1889, the parish, with the permission and blessing of the archbishop, changed its name from St. Valerius to Holy Apostles.

The first burial in the cemetery was Mary Elizabeth Johann on September 26th, 1885. The members of many early pioneer families lie at rest in this cemetery: the Jungens, Kaus, Kohlers, Biwers, Beres, Jungbluths, Snyders, Stephens and Stiglers.

The veterans of several wars are also buried here including Mathias Stephens who fought in the Civil War.

New Berlin Landmarks Commission – 2024

German Evangelical Protestant Cemetery

This historic cemetery was built on land donated in 1842 by Christian Damm, an early German immigrant from Rhenish-Bavaria. The first burial took place later that same year. Barbara, the daughter of Henry and Barbara Luke, died of convulsions. She was only 13 days old. Eventually, 93 of New Berlin's earliest pioneers were laid to rest in this cemetery; 65 of them, like Barbara, were infants or children. The families represented include Kramer, Korn, Sittle, and Wilde.

A frame church associated with the cemetery was built in 1848 and dedicated in 1849. It was the first permanent place of worship in New Berlin. A parsonage and parochial school were added in 1852. Within three years the congregation grew to 42 families, but doctrinal disagreements led to divisions within the community. A majority of members decided to leave. In 1865, they built a new brick church about a mile west from this site.

By 1867, 25 years after its founding, the original church was abandoned, although the last known burials in the cemetery occurred in the early 1870s. Through the years the gravestones became hidden under a dense cover of brush and debris. . . but the cemetery was not forgotten.

On April 17, 2003, the German Evangelical Protestant Cemetery was designated as an historic landmark. Under the loving care of the New Berlin Landmarks Commission, restoration efforts began. Volunteers worked to clean the grounds. Ground-penetrating radar was used to locate the gravesites and a list of the known burials was posted on the northside of the cemetery.

In 2010, the cemetery was rededicated as a testament to the courage and determination of New Berlin's earliest residents.

New Berlin Landmarks Commission- 2024

Landmarks Commission - Future Landmark - Milwaukee Astronomical Society

Inbox x

K

Ken Harenda

to me, Rubina ▾

Jun 25, 2025, 11:37 AM (8 days ago)



Hi Patti,

I hope all is going well.

Please see the request below. Can you place this on our agenda for discussion at our next meeting?

*On Thu, Jun 19, 2025 at 10:32 AM Tim Mills <chshdsck@hotmail.com> wrote:**Good morning,*

My name is Tim Mills, and I'm with the Milwaukee Astronomical Society here in New Berlin. We wanted to look into what the prerequisites might be to be considered as a historical landmark in the county of Waukesha. As an organization that's been around for nearly 100 years, we would love to be considered in some capacity to the county's historical society. Whether if it's added to the historical registry or even gain a historical marker for our location.

Brief Synopsis of MAS

We've been an organization since 1932, and have been here at our current location in New Berlin since ground first broke for our first observatory in 1937. We are one of the oldest and largest amateur astronomy organizations in the country. We currently have 12 structures, 9 of them observatories. We have 10 permanent or semi-permanently mounted instruments. All of this is on our 3.1-acre site, nearly entirely funded and built by current and past memberships. We have had numerous members that have received local and national awards recognizing their contribution to science. We also welcome in the community during our open houses to educate the public on what goes on in the skies above us.

Any information would be great as well as anything we need to do our end.

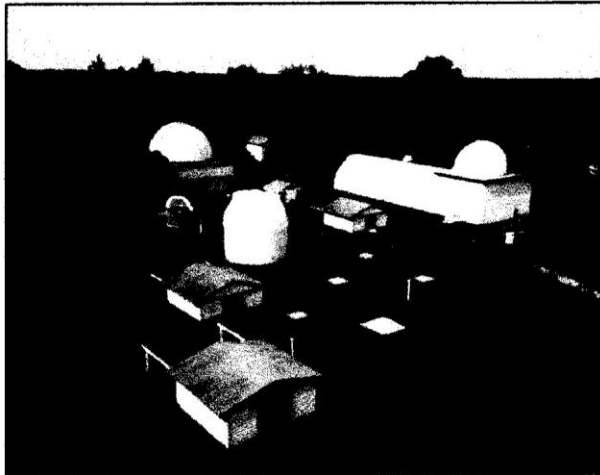
Much appreciated and hope you have a nice day!

Tim Mills**Board of Directors****Milwaukee Astronomical Society****18850 W. Observatory Rd, New Berlin****Cell: (414) 208-5771**

***Historical & Architectural Resources Survey
City of New Berlin, Waukesha County, Wisconsin***

~~No information was found to suggest potential eligibility under either Criterion A: History or Criterion B: Significant Persons. Regarding Criterion C: Architecture, the house was identified in the 1995 New Berlin Reconnaissance Survey as significant on a statewide level. Although the tower and brackets tend to reflect characteristics of a rural Italian Villa, the house definitively represents the transition between Italianate and Queen Anne architecture. Based on newspaper referenees to A.C. Peck being a builder, it is likely that he built the house himself.~~

Name	AHI#	NRHP Evaluation
18850 W. Observatory Road	240664-66	Potentially Eligible ⁶⁴
Description and Statement of Significance		



Milwaukee Astronomical Society grounds(1937-38+).
Photo from the MAS website.

The 3.1-acre observatory grounds include a total of twelve structures, nine of which are observatories. The largest structure on the premises is the Armfield Observatory, which is comprised of a square, vinyl-sheathed frame structure topped with a dome. Extending from the observatory proper are restrooms that were added in 1965, as well as the Quonset lecture hall which was added to the grounds in 1955. The next largest structure is the Buckstaff Observatory (Ca. 1951), a square concrete

block sfructure topped with a dome. Two additional domed observatories are located on the grounds, while the remaining vinylsheathed, frame sfructures are small, gabled structures with either sliding or flip-top roofs.⁶⁵

~~newsbrief, *Waukesha Daily Freeman*, 9 May 1895, U.S. Federal Census, Population, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, Wisconsin State Census, 1885; "Area Clubs Review Year's Events," *Waukesha Daily Freeman*, 2 January 1969, 21. Vista Mere House, which has long been incorrectly referred to in secondary sources as Buena Vista, was built adjacent to (and to the west of) Peck's home. Although originally planned to be called the Highland Park House and to consist of twenty-seven rooms, it was ultimately named Vista Mere House. Its actual room size, as built, remains unconfirmed. A grand opening was held in March 1892, and it opened for summer stays as of June 1892. The hotel's tenure was significantly short, as it was destroyed by fire in March of the following year. As the insurance covered only two thirds of its worth, the hotel was not rebuilt. "Prospect A Summer Resort — Large Hotel Going Up," *Waukesha Daily Freeman*, 1 October 1891, 5; "Duplainville," *Waukesha Daily Freeman*, 24 March 1892, 5; "Vista Mere to Open," *Waukesha Daily Freeman*, 16 June 1892, 9; "Prospect," newsbrief (re: fire), *Waukesha Daily Freeman*, 16 March 1893, 5.~~

~~⁶⁴ Although discussed with SHPO staff, this recommendation was made without an actual site visit completed with WHS staff (as the observatory grounds are not accessible on a daily basis) or any photos. Confirmed potential eligibility of the property requires a final review by WHS staff.~~

65 Available building permits for the property cite the construction of a \$4,000 kitchen and toilet addition to the observatory (permit dated 24 August 1964), as well as document the move of the steel Quonset building to the grounds in 1955 (permit dated 18 May 1955).

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The Milwaukee Astronomical Society (MAS) built its first observatory at this location in 1937. Formed in September 1932, the MAS was established with eighteen charter members and observing sessions were held in the backyard of Luverne Armfield's home at 2046 S. 59th Street in West Allis. With a membership of 130 by the following year (and a crowded back yard), plans began to form to build an observatory outside of the city. But with little money, and in the midst of the Great Depression, those plans would need to wait. In the meantime, as of 1934, the group, which incorporated as a non-profit organization, was producing its own publication—the 'MAS Bulletin,' with a circulation of about 100. This continued until December 1935, when the group discontinued it to instead publish *Amateur Astronomy*, a publication of the American Amateur Astronomical Association (AAAA) which originally included a total of seven groups located in New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Wisconsin (the latter including groups in both Madison and Milwaukee; the AAAA would expand to include a total of fifteen societies). Although 1.1 acre of land was gifted to the organization in 1934 by one of its members—Prof. M.J.W. Phillips—a frame structure (the Armfield Observatory or A-Dome), 16 feet square and 13 feet high, was not built until 1937 and a telescope installed the following year. Dedication occurred on 18 June 1938, with the primary address being given by Charles Hetzer of the Yerkes Observatory.⁶⁶

By the end of 1939, a former City of Milwaukee voting booth building was loaned by the Milwaukee Public Museum to the MAS and it was moved to the grounds for use as an office and sleeping quarters and dubbed the clubhouse/monastery (no longer extant). In 1941, a former Milwaukee substation building was donated to the group and it was reassembled on the grounds and used as a tool shed (no longer extant). Although plans for a new double-domed observatory

on expanded grounds were made in 1947-48, it did not come to fruition. Instead, a single-domed, cinder block structure (the Buckstaff Observatory or B-Dome) was largely completed in 1951 but was not functioning until nearly 1960⁶⁷

In 1953, another rollaway building (the original C-Shed; no longer extant) was erected on the grounds and, two years later, a Quonset hut was obtained from the City of Milwaukee (again loaned through the Milwaukee Public Museum) and attached to the north end of the A-Dome. In 1957, the MAS started the Saturday night open house program for members, which continues to date, from May to October. The following year saw the renovation of the clubhouse/monastery, to include a flat roof and a hinged cover and was, thereafter, known as the satellite shed. In 1958, the newsletter that had been discontinued twenty years earlier, was revived and called The Double Dome. Five years later, two additional acres were gifted by the Phillips family and in

"Milwaukee New Notes," *Amateur Astronomy*, Vol. 2, No. 1 (January 1936), 9; Edward A. Halbach, "The Milwaukee Astronomical Society Observatory," *Amateur Astronomy*, vol. 4, No. 6 (June-July 1938), 62; Preceding construction of the 1937-38 observatory, member A-C. Tabbatt donated his telescope and rollaway shelter, which was moved to the New Berlin grounds in July 1937 (known today as the D-Shed), "History of the Milwaukee Astronomical Society," Available online at http://milwaukeeastro.org/history/MAS_History-asp, Accessed July 2019.

"History of the Milwaukee Astronomical Society."

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1964, 800 red pine trees were planted along the perimeter of the property. In 1965, restrooms and a darkroom (both heated) were added to the Armfield Observatory.⁶⁸

Construction of the concrete block Z dome began in 1980 and was fully completed in 1983. The remaining structures were built as follows: Albrecht Observatory (aka, the C-Shed; 1990s); DShed (2000); Tangney Observatory (2000s); Zit Observatory (2002); Toeller Observatory (2000s; updated in 2015); and the Solar Observatory (2016).⁶⁹

No information was found to substantiate potential eligibility under Criterion B: Significant Persons or Criterion C: Architecture. Regarding Criterion A: History, this has been the site of the Milwaukee Astronomical Society since 1937. The group identifies itself as "among the oldest amateur astronomical societies" and it operates "one of the largest and most extensive amateur clubs in the entire world." Notably, it was almost entirely funded and built by the membership. Furthermore, while functioning as a recreational club, the MAS sets itself apart from other amateur clubs as that they concentrate on scientific work, rather than just "fun" astronomy. Following review of the observatories located on the grounds, to date, only two of the buildings are fifty years of age. That having been said, at this time, those two structures

together, are recommended as potentially eligible for the National Register under Criterion A: History (Education). With the passage of time, additional structures could also be considered contributing structures to the significance of the grounds.

CITY OF NEW BERLIN
PROPOSED 2026 BUDGET

Org	Object	528 - LANDMARKS COMMISSION	2023 ACTUAL	2024 ACTUAL	2025 BUDGET	2025 6 MOS.	2025 ESTIMATED TOTAL	2026 DEPARTMENT PROPOSED
15280000	54110	OTHER SUPPLIES	100	40	2,000	150	1000*	2,000**

*2025 Estimated Expenditures
 Commission participation at annual
 Federal, State and/or Local Historic
 Preservation Workshops 100
 Replacement signs at designated
 Informational Markers & Landmarks 600
 Supplies/Misc. 300
1,000

**2026 Estimated Expenditures
 WAHPC Membership 40
 Commission participation at annual
 Federal, State and/or Local Historic
 Preservation Workshops 560
 Supplies/Misc 600
 Replacement signs at designated
 Informational Markers & Landmarks 800
2,000

Presented to Landmarks Commission at the July 17, 2025 meeting