

Landmarks Commission Meeting Agenda, July 16, 20026 - 6:00 PM
New Berlin City Hall
Conference Room A/B

Published: 7.13.26

- 1) CALL TO ORDER
- 2) ROLL CALL; DECLARATION OF QUORUM; PUBLIC NOTICE
- 3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Thursday, June 18, 2026
- 4) TREASURER'S REPORT
- 5) COMMUNICATIONS
 - A. Report from the Chair
 - i. Update Regarding Documentation of Landmark Properties
 - ii. Reimbursement Request
 - iii. Proposed telecommunications projects
- 6) UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - A. Update on City Website Revisions – Commissioner Erdman & Chairperson Orzel
 - B. QR Code from the Koeppen Home – Chairperson Orzel
- 7) NEW BUSINESS
 - A. GPR Proposal – Commissioner Erdmann
- 8) SET MEETING DATE
- 9) ANNOUNCEMENTS
- 10) ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES OF THE LANDMARKS COMMISSION MEETING
JUNE 18, 2026
CITY HALL
CONFERENCE ROOM A/B

I. Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Orzel at 6:00 PM.

Chairperson Orzel introduced and welcomed Alderperson Meg Gardner, who is our new Common Council Liaison on the Landmarks Commission.

Present: Chairperson Orzel, Alderperson Gardner, Commissioners Erdmann, Marquardt, Tyskiewicz and Warczak.

Excused: Vice-Chairperson Ament.

II. Declaration of Quorum; Public Notice.

III. Approval of Minutes.

Landmarks Commission Minutes from March 19, 2026.

MOTION: Motion to Approve.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Treasurer's Report – Commissioner Warczak.

A. There is a balance of \$1921.78 in the Treasury, following expenditures of \$40.00 for annual WAHPC dues, and reimbursement to Commissioner Warczak for supplies used in the Landmarks display board for the Red/White & Scoops Ice Cream Social.

B. Commissioner Warczak proposed submitting a request for \$2000.00 for the 2027 Landmarks Commission budget. This amount is to cover any replacement signs for Landmarks, participation in a 2027 4th of July event, supplies, WAHPC dues, and any workshops/conventions that commissioners may attend.

MOTION: Motion to Approve 2027 Landmarks Commission Budget.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

V. Communications – Chairperson Orzel.

A. Report from the Chair.

1. Update regarding documentation of Landmark Properties – efforts are ongoing.
2. Cemetery signage update – all replacement signs are installed.
3. Reimbursement Request.

MOTION: Motion to Approve \$152.00 Reimbursement to Chairperson Orzel for the floral arrangement from the Landmarks Commission for former Chairperson Hermann's funeral.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Unfinished Business.

A. USA's 250th Anniversary Celebration – Commissioner Warczak.

1. Review of Red/White & Scoops Ice Cream Social – Commissioner Warczak detailed the participation of the City's Recreation Department for decorations and activities including yard games, sticker tattoos, a selfie station, big birthday card, and the participation of the VFW and Boy Scouts, along with a display board of all of the City's Landmarks constructed by the Landmarks Commission, who along with the New Berlin Historical Society members, volunteered to make a successful event.
2. Possible 2027 4th of July Participation – to be decided.

MOTION: Motion to Approve \$82.66 Reimbursement to Commissioner Warczak for the purchase of ice cream and toppings.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

B. Review of Documents from Previous Chairpersons – Commissioner Tyskiewicz.

1. A paper was presented enumerating various Native American artifacts found in New Berlin, including dates and locations where found. Upon discussion, it was learned that the information is also found in Mary Ella Milham's book, New Berlin, Wisconsin to 1900: Not as German as You'd Think.
2. Commissioner Tyskiewicz had been given former Chairperson Hermann's Landmarks binder upon her death by former Commissioner Hemmen, and she turned it over to Commissioner Warczak, who is compiling the Master Binder that will be transferred to flash drives.

C. Review and Approval of Comprehensive Historic Landmarks Database – Chairperson Orzel.

MOTION: Motion to Approve.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

D. Update on City Website Revisions – Commissioner Erdmann – there are some discrepancies in numbering of Landmarks and photo identifications that will be rectified.

VII. New Business.

A. Proposed Telecommunications Project – Chairperson Orzel.

1. This project is proposed for 15605 W. Ridge Road, which borders on the Deer Creek area that may have been an encampment of or may contain Native American artifacts.
2. Commissioner Erdmann suggested that Ground-Penetrating Radar be performed before any construction is started.

MOTION: To Contact the Telecommunications Company to Have Ground-Penetrating Radar Performed on the Site.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

B. Replacement of Post and QR Code at the Koeppen Home – Commissioner Marquardt.

MOTION: To Approve the Replacement of the Post and the QR Code that Disappeared from the Front of the Koeppen Home.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Set Meeting Date: JULY 16, 2026, at 6:00 PM, CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM A/B.

IX. Adjournment at 8:12 PM.

MOTION: Motion to Adjourn.

VOTE: Motion by Commissioner Warczak.
Second by Alderperson Gardner.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Tyskiewicz
Landmarks Commission Secretary

Landmarks Commission

Overview

The mission of the New Berlin Landmarks Commission is to serve the people of the city as stewards of improvements and districts and to develop historical, cultural, social, political, and economic interest in our community. Continuation of our heritage for current and future generations is accomplished through the perpetuation and use of such improvements and districts and by educating the citizenry and fostering in them a deep sense of civic pride in the beauty and noble accomplishments of the past and present.

[View more information](#) on Landmarks and the Landmarks Commission.

[By-Laws \(PDF\)](#)

Meetings

- 6:00 pm on the third Thursday of each month
- City Hall/Conference Room AB, 3805 S Casper Drive, New Berlin, WI 53151

Agendas & Minutes

View [Minutes](#) prior to March 1, 2011

To contact the Landmarks Commission Chair, please [Email](#)

This links to Laurie DeMoss's email. Recently several emails were sent directly to Laurie regarding the construction of two cellphone towers in the City which required a timely response. Given that Laurie retired from the Commission several years ago, we are fortunate that she was able/willing to forward the emails to the current chair. Is there some way in which the Landmark's Commission could have an email account that does not need to be changed each time there is a new chairperson?

Members

Member	Position	Term Expiration Date
Peggy Ament	Vice-Chair, Citizen Member	October 1, 2028
John Erdmann	Citizen Member	October 1, 2027
Vacant	Citizen Member	October 1, 2025
Vacant	Citizen Member	October 1, 2026
Patti Orzel	Chairperson, Citizen Member	October 1, 2026
Jennifer Tyskiewicz	Citizen Member	October 1, 2026
Anne Marquardt	Citizen Member	October 1, 2028
Meg Gardner	Council Representative	April 2027
Cheryl Warczak	Treasurer, Citizen Member	October 1, 2027

History & Landmarks

The passage below was edited for clarity and accuracy.

Early Settlement and Growth. Although the City of New Berlin was incorporated in 1959, settlers had established homes in the area more than a century earlier. The first settlers—Sidney Evans, P.G. Harrington, and Harrington's wife—arrived in 1836. The township was originally known as Mentor, but Evans renamed it New Berlin on January 13, 1840. The community grew steadily, increasing from 1,293 residents in 1850 to 5,334 in 1950. By 1960, the population had nearly tripled to 15,788.

Early Commerce and Community Centers. New Berlin was primarily an agricultural community, with early commerce centered in several key areas: Prospect Hill; the area near Racine Avenue and National Avenue; New Berlin Center, near National Avenue and Calhoun Road; and the Hamlet of Calhoun, near Calhoun Road and the Chicago and North Western Railway tracks.

Today. New Berlin is a mid-sized Milwaukee suburb with more than 36,000 residents, yet it continues to preserve much of its rural character. The city's east side includes higher-density neighborhoods, commercial corridors along National Avenue, Moorland Road, and Greenfield Avenue, and a strong industrial base. The west side retains a more rural feel, with large-lot single-family homes and agricultural uses.

(Excerpt from the City's 2020 Comprehensive Plan, Chapter 4: Cultural & Historic Resources) *This link does not work. Please remove it.*

Historic Society – This is the correct name of the New Berlin Historical Society

Landmarks Commission

New Berlin Landmarks and Historic Sites

Newspaper Articles – These articles are about history, not preservation. They might fit better under the New Berlin Historical Society.

1989 German Fest Honored City

New Berlin's 30th Anniversary (Community Newspapers Inc, June 29, 1989)

St. Paul's 125th Anniversary (Pace, March 11, 1982) – This article is mostly about Tess Corners/Muskego. Remove?

Landmarks Commission

Landmarks Commission

The Landmarks Commission was created by Common Council Ordinance No. 897 on May 23, 1989. (Subsequent Ordinances 960, 1085, 2037) The Commission is made up of 9 members (8 are appointed by the Mayor, and 1 is appointed by the Common Council President.) Members serve 3- Year terms. Common Council member shall serve 1-Year Term.

The mission of the New Berlin Landmarks Commission is to serve the people of the City as stewards of historic districts, and to develop historical, cultural, social, political, and economic interest in our community. Continuation of our heritage for current and future generations is accomplished through the perpetuation and use of historic districts, and by educating the citizenry and fostering in them a deep sense of civic pride in the beauty and noble accomplishments of the past and present.

Click the links to the left for more information about New Berlin Historic Landmarks.



Please remember, with the exception of the Prospect Hill Historical Park, historical properties are private property and should only be viewed from the public corridor. Please respect the privacy of the Owners.

Change the caption on photo to:

The Landmarks Commission honors the restoration of one of the City's historical cemeteries. Left to right...

Interested in Landmark Status?

If you own a historically significant home, farm, building, site, or property in New Berlin, it may be eligible for designation as a landmark through the New Berlin Landmarks Commission. Designating your historically significant property helps to preserve and honor New Berlin's heritage. For more information property owners are encouraged to contact the Landmarks Commission at newberlinlandmarks@gmail.com or attend one of the commission's regularly scheduled meetings.

Historical Landmarks & Sites

Click the links to the left for more information about New Berlin Landmarks and Historic Sites.

Please remember, with the exception of the Prospect Hill Historical Park, historical properties are private property and should only be viewed from the public corridor. Please respect the privacy of the Owners.

Historical Districts

Click the links to the left to view more information about the City's Historic Districts.

Arcadian Hills Residential Historical District

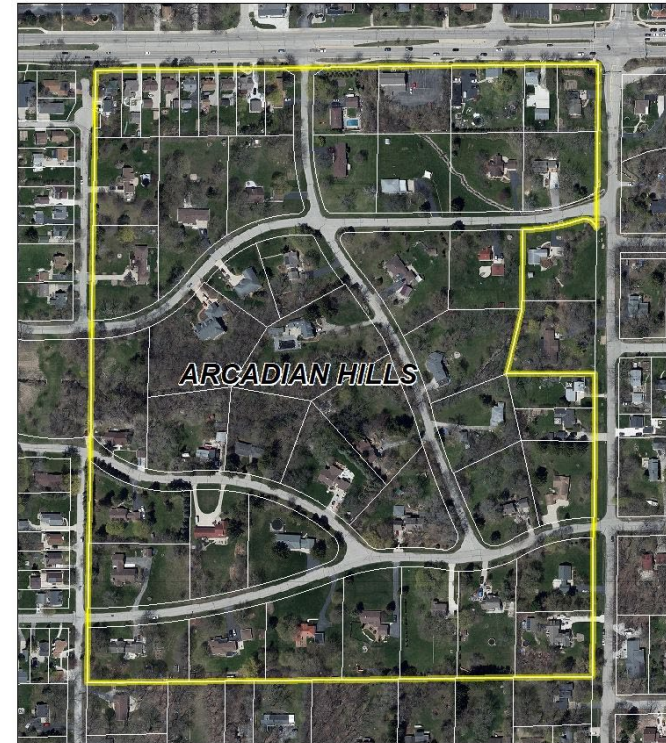
The passage below was edited for clarity and accuracy.

Location: Elm Grove Road, Prospect Drive and Prospect Place
Informational Designation: 2021

Arcadian Hills was recorded in September 1934 by Herman and Anna Marks as New Berlin's seventh plated subdivision. Herman Marks, born in New Berlin in 1884, worked as a carpenter, farmer, and cable layer before developing land in the area. By 1941, additional land had been added to the original plat, expanding Arcadian Hills to 51 acres and 44 lots of approximately one acre each.

The district includes 16 single-family homes built between 1937 and 1953. The homes reflect a variety of mid-century styles, including Ranch, Cape Cod, and Minimal Traditional designs. Their stone, brick, clapboard, and stucco exteriors retain a strong degree of historical integrity, and many homes feature attached garages with breezeways.

Deed restrictions adopted in 1936 governed matters such as minimum home costs, permitted animals, and the number of homes allowed per lot; these restrictions remained in place until 1957. Arcadian Hills is notable for its one-acre lots, which were significantly larger than those in earlier New Berlin subdivisions, and for its planned curvilinear roadways rather than a standard street grid. It is recognized as New Berlin's first planned curvilinear subdivision.



Hamlet of Calhoun (Remove from Landmarks List; transfer to Historic Districts.)

Rewritten from Comprehensive Plan 2025

Location: Calhoun Road & Chicago & North Western Railway Tracks

Informational Designation: 2003

Thomas and Mary Calhoun arrived from Ireland in 1872 and purchased land in the area that would soon bear their name. In 1881, the Chicago and North Western Railway established a stop at Calhoun, helping the hamlet become a local commercial hub. The rail connection allowed area farmers to ship products to Milwaukee and Chicago and helped supply goods for businesses such as Elger's Market. A post office was also added at Calhoun Depot.

In 1898, the Milwaukee Electric Railway and Light Company, known as TMER&L, expanded service to Calhoun, offering residents fast and affordable commuter transportation. Many Calhoun residents found work at Allis-Chalmers, a major manufacturer of agricultural and heavy equipment in nearby West Allis. To serve workers and their families, Calhoun Homesteads—now known as Calhoun Farms—was built in the 1940s just north of the railroad tracks. The subdivision featured affordable cottage-style homes, and a public elementary school was located nearby.

TMER&L ended service in 1951, reshaping Calhoun and the surrounding area. Today, a bike trail follows the former electric railway route. The Union Pacific Railroad purchased the Chicago and North Western Railway in 1995, and the rail line through New Berlin remains in use.

Historic Coffee Street

Location: Coffee Road & National Avenue west to Racine Avenue
Informational Designation: 2000

Prior to New Berlin becoming a city, Coffee Road was known as Coffee Street. Coffee Street connected Racine Avenue with Mukwonago Road (now National Avenue) and was a one-track gravel road which passed through a German neighborhood and Little Grove School District. Passersby would stop along Coffee Street to sample their neighbor's coffee bubbling on the back of each home's big black stove. To recognize the historic and cultural heritage of Coffee Street for the education, inspiration, pleasure, and enrichment of the citizens of the City of New Berlin, decorative signs referencing the historic nature were placed below the existing Coffee Road signs.



New Berlin Historical Park

Designated: 1970, Open to the Public in 1977

Location: 19765 W National Avenue

Rewritten for accuracy.

~~The area near National Avenue and Racine Avenue was the center of the old Yankee Settlement named Prospect Hill by Yankee Dr. John Ingersoll. Prospect Hill was a close-knit hamlet at the turn of the 19th century. Its 200 residents patronized or operated their mills, blacksmith and cooper shops, tree nursery and greenhouse. Included among them were a doctor, minister, surveyor, carpenter, well-digger, dressmaker, mason and teacher. Progress spelled D-O-O-M for this country's hamlets. After WWI, the Model T took folks away from home. Rural free delivery closed local post offices and the little stores died. But let us not forget their stories. Prospect Hill was designated a local Historic District on November 19, 1991 by the New Berlin Landmarks Commission.~~

The Town of New Berlin was founded on January 13, 1846, and officially incorporated as a city in 1959. Soon afterward, the New Berlin Historical Society was established in 1964 and incorporated in 1965.

As New Berlin developed rapidly, the City sought to preserve important parts of its heritage. In 1970, it acquired the Winton-Sprengel property in Prospect Hill, one of the area's earliest settlements. The site opened to the public as New Berlin Historical Park in 1977 under the management of the New Berlin Historical Society.

Over time, several historic buildings were moved to the park from their original locations to protect them from demolition. Although these buildings remain historically significant, they may not be officially designated as Historic Landmarks until 50 years after their relocation, as provided by statute.

(Would it be possible to link to the New Berlin Historical Society's page here?)

Prospect Hill Settlement Historic District

Designation: November 28, 1991

Location: National & Racine Avenues to Barton Road

The passage below was edited for clarity and accuracy.

The area near National Avenue and Racine Avenue was once the center of the old Yankee settlement named Prospect Hill by Dr. John Ingersoll. By the turn of the 19th century, Prospect Hill had become a close-knit hamlet of about 200 residents.

Residents supported and operated local mills, blacksmith and cooper shops, a tree nursery, and a greenhouse. The community also included a doctor, minister, surveyor, carpenter, well-digger, dressmaker, mason, and teacher.

Like many rural hamlets, Prospect Hill changed as transportation and delivery services expanded. After World War I, the Model T made travel beyond the hamlet easier. Rural free delivery reduced the need for local post offices, and small stores gradually disappeared. Even so, Prospect Hill's story remains an important part of New Berlin's history.

In November 1991, the Landmarks Commission declared Prospect Hill Settlement as the City's first officially designated Historic District. The Prospect Hill Settlement District includes some properties within New Berlin Historical Park as well as neighboring sites.

(Please use the Historic Districts & Landmarks Comprehensive Inventory to correctly identify the properties located in the Historical Park and those in the Prospect Hill Historic District.)

(Note that Prospect Hill School #3 is a part of the Prospect Hill Historic Settlement. It is adjacent to the Historical Park, but not in the park. The photo included is not Prospect Hill School #3. It is Prospect Hill

School #2 which is a part of the Historical Park. Prospect Hill School #3 is a private home. I am not aware of any current photos. The property is inaccessible to the public.)

.

Cheese Factory/Uncle Jimmy's Bar & Grill

Site #18

Designated December 18, 2014

Location: 18540 W National Avenue

The passage below was edited for clarity and accuracy.

In 1836, W. A. Cone filed for a land grant covering one quarter of Section 28. He later sold the property to Angelus Verbrick. In February 1891, Verbrick leased a small portion of the property to M. A. Sickles and F. E. Allen for a 25-year term. The lease required Sickles, Allen, or their heirs to build a cheese factory and open it for business within one year. According to documents filed with the Waukesha County Register of Deeds, they also agreed to pay Verbrick one dollar each year on February 28 for the duration of the contract.

Verbrick further agreed that, upon full payment of \$100, he would provide a full deed for the property with one important condition: the premises were never to be used for the sale of malt, ardent spirits, or other intoxicating beverages. If the agreement was violated, ownership of the property would return to Verbrick. Sickles and Allen met the lease requirements, and in 1892 the property was sold to C. B. McCanna, owner of C. B. McCanna Cheese and Butter Manufacturing.

Many years later, the former cheese factory took on new uses. By the 1960s, it had become The Night Owl, an establishment serving alcoholic beverages to patrons of legal age. Several other taverns and pubs followed. In 1994, Michele High purchased the building and renamed the business Mustang Shelly's Roadhouse. After many successful years, she sold the business in 2025 to Jimmy, who renamed it Uncle Jimmy's Pub and Grill.



Hamlet of Calhoun

Move to Historic Districts. See rewritten version.

Calhoun Road & Old C & N.W. RR

This site is a reminder of the early commerce in this hamlet. The railroad, business people, grocers, farmers and other community members came here to do business. Designated a Waukesha County Landmark in 2004.

Elger's Red Bell Market/Chappell Sports

Site #14

Designated June 9, 2009

Location: 18600 W National Avenue

The passage below was edited for clarity and accuracy.

Elger's Red Bell Market has changed little since Burt and John Ingersoll, sons of Dr. John Ingersoll, built the wood-frame building in 1888. Although it is unclear for whom the Ingersolls constructed the building, recently discovered records show that George Vyvyan, the son of a Cornish immigrant, owned it from 1902 to 1909. The classic country store served the Prospect Hill area by selling cloth, dry goods, farm tools, meats, and other necessities.

In 1909, Joe Elger Jr. and his wife, Lillian Boehmer Elger, purchased the store and continued its traditional country-store operation. The Elger family had emigrated to New Berlin in the 1850s from what is now the Czech Republic. Franz Elger purchased a farm on Calhoun Road in 1852, and several of his descendants later owned and operated markets in the area, including this one on National Avenue.

Joe's son, Glenn, and Glenn's wife, June, were the last members of the Elger family to manage the store. On October 1, 1977, Glenn and his brother, Don, turned over the keys to Jack and Jean Wachholz, who operated a True Value Hardware in the building. Their purchase ended 90 years of operation as a country store. In 1984, Lennie Chappell, a former NBA player with the Milwaukee Bucks, bought the building for his sporting goods store, which specializes in customized athletic apparel.

Many items from the original country store are now displayed at the New Berlin Historical Park, where a replica of the store is set up in the carriage barn.

To: Mayor and Common Council

From: John Erdmann, Landmarks Commission Member

Date: July 7, 2026

Re: Proposed Ordinance Requiring Ground-Penetrating Radar (GPR) Surveys for Development Activities in Areas of Known or Suspected Native American Burial Sites

Dear Mayor and Members of the Common Council,

I respectfully submit for your consideration a proposed ordinance intended to strengthen the protection of Native American burial sites, effigy mounds, human remains, and associated cultural resources within the City of New Berlin.

Wisconsin has long recognized the importance of preserving burial sites through Wisconsin Statutes §§ 44.01–44.48 (Historical Societies and Historic Preservation), Wisconsin Statute § 157.70 (Burial Sites Preservation), Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter HS 1 (Burial Sites Preservation Board), and Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter HS 2 (Burial Sites Preservation Program). While these laws establish important protections, local governments may adopt additional procedures to help prevent the inadvertent disturbance of burial sites during development and construction activities.

The proposed ordinance would require a Ground-Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey before approval of certain development projects when the property is located within or adjacent to an area containing a known, suspected, or recorded Native American burial site, effigy mound, archaeological site, or other area identified as having a reasonable likelihood of containing unrecorded burial features. GPR is a non-invasive technology that can help identify subsurface anomalies and reduce the risk of accidental disturbance before excavation begins.

The proposed ordinance would:

- Require GPR surveys for development projects in areas of known or suspected Native American burial sites;
- Establish procedures for review and reporting of survey results;

- Require notification of the Wisconsin Historical Society when potential burial features are identified;
- Encourage preservation of burial sites in place whenever feasible;
- Provide waiver provisions when previous archaeological investigations have been completed or where GPR is determined to be ineffective; and
- Promote compliance with state burial site preservation laws while providing developers with a clear and predictable review process.

The intent of this ordinance is not to create unnecessary burdens on development, but to ensure that culturally significant and legally protected burial sites are identified before ground-disturbing activities occur. Early identification can help avoid costly project delays, legal disputes, and irreversible damage to irreplaceable cultural resources.

Therefore, I respectfully request that the Common Council consider adoption of the proposed ordinance and place the matter on the agenda for discussion and vote at an upcoming meeting.

Attached is the link to the proposal with the site evidence. [GPR Requirement Proposal](#)

Thank you for your consideration of this important preservation initiative.

Respectfully submitted,

John Erdmann, Member

City of New Berlin Landmarks Commission

CC:

Mayor David A. Ament

Mr. Greg Kessler, Office of Community Development

Ms. Megan Godshall, Office of the City Clerk

Ms. Anne Marquardt, New Berlin Historical Society

Alderman John Hopkins

Alderwoman Meg Gardner

Alderman Dave Maxey

Alderman Kenneth A. Harenda II

Alderman Joseph Stribl

Alderman Dennis Horbinski

Alderwoman Charlotte Kroupa

Paul Reckner, Wisconsin Burial Sites Preservation Board, paul.reckner@wisconsinhistory.org

Ho-Chunk Nation, bill.quackenbush@ho-chunk.com

Forest County Potawatomi Community, Luke.Heider@fcp-nsn.gov

Oneida Nation, oneida_thpo@oneidanation.org