



The City of Poughkeepsie New York

Common Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

6:30 PM

Common Council Chambers

**Welcome to the regularly scheduled Meeting of the City of Poughkeepsie
Common Council the date is January 20, 2026, and the time is 6:30pm**

I. ROLL CALL

9 Present, 0 Absent ()

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES

A motion to Approve the Minutes of January 2, 2026 and January 6, 2026 was made by 3rd Ward Council Member Brown and seconded by 2nd Ward Councilmember Menist.

CCM Minutes of January 2, 2026 and January 6, 2026- VOICE VOTE

Yes/Aye:	1st Ward Council Member Henry, 2nd Ward Councilmember Menist, 3rd Ward Council Member Brown, 5th Ward Council Member James, 6th Ward Council Member Grant, 7th Ward Council Member Patterson Thompson, 4th Ward Council Member Shook, Council Member At-Large Wilson, 8th Ward Councilmember Atonna
No/Nay:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	
Result:	Passed

1. Common Council Organizational Meeting of January 2, 2026
2. Common Council Meeting of January 6, 2026

III. READING OF ITEMS by the City Chamberlain of any resolutions not listed on the printed agenda

IV. PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

A motion to Defer to Corporation Counsel was made by 7th Ward Council Member Patterson Thompson and seconded by 3rd Ward Council Member Brown.

Motion to Defer Items 3 - 6 to Corporation Counsel - VOICE VOTE	
Yes/Aye:	1st Ward Council Member Henry, 2nd Ward Councilmember Menist, 3rd Ward Council Member Brown, 5th Ward Council Member James, 6th Ward Council Member Grant, 7th Ward Council Member Patterson Thompson, 4th Ward Council Member Shook, Council Member At-Large Wilson, 8th Ward Councilmember Atonna
No/Nay:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	
Result:	Passed

1. **FROM CHIEF OF POLICE WILSON**, a presentation regarding Flock Safety cameras in the City of Poughkeepsie
2. **FROM AIMHIGH**, a presentation regarding career exposure and readiness training
3. **FROM RAYHEIM DRAYTON**, a notice of claim for personal injury sustained on October 23, 2024
4. **FROM LOGAN EDSON**, a notice of claim for personal injury sustained on October 4, 2025.
5. **FROM DEBRA GASKIN HUGHES ON BEHALF OF MINOR CHILD MKAI GASKIN-HUGHES**, a notice of claim for personal injury sustained on December 15, 2025.
6. **FROM TALIA TURK**, a notice of claim for property damage sustained on December 27, 2025

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Three (3) minutes per person up to 45 minutes of public comment on any agenda and non-agenda item.

Wesley Aptekar- Cassels - 27 Conklin St
Ka'Nye Webb- 15 W Eugene Ct
Will Henningsen- 137 Academy Street- Open New York
Laurie Sandow- S Grand Ave *
Warren Jones

***Submitted Written Comments for the Official Record**

VI. NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

VII. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND BOARDS:

1. **HISTORIC DISTRICT & LANDMARK PRESERVATION COMMISSION**, a presentation of their 2025 annual report



**THE CITY OF
POUGHKEEPSIE NEW YORK
HISTORIC DISTRICT & LANDMARK PRESERVATION COMMISSION
62 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, 2ND FLOOR POUGHKEEPSIE, NY 12601
Phone: (845) 451-4623**

**2025 ANNUAL HDLPC
REPORT**

January 2, 2026

1. Properties and districts which received Historical Designation in 2025.
 - **Vassar Warner Home**, located on 52 South Hamilton Street, received nomination for designation at the January 9, 2025 HDLPC meeting and local designation from Common Council March 2025.
 - **10 South Clinton Street**, received nomination for designation at the January 9, 2025 HDLPC meeting and local designation from Common Council April 2025.

Official Minutes of the Common Council Meeting of January 20, 2026

2. There were no designations to the national registry to our knowledge.
3. There were no designations to the state registry to our knowledge.
4. Activities of note this year include:
 - Hosting the 2025 NY Statewide Preservation Conference in May.
 - Informational mailing sent to Historic property owners and those residing in historic homes in September.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Lori Garcia at the City of Poughkeepsie Development Department at 845-451-4263.

****Additional handout included at the end of minutes****

VII. CONSENT AGENDA: MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

IX. CONSENT AGENDA: ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

X. ACTION AGENDA: MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

A motion to Approve the Action Agenda was made by 3rd Ward Council Member Brown and seconded by 8th Ward Council Member Atonna.

Resolution R-26-11- VOICE VOTE	
Yes/Aye:	1st Ward Council Member Henry, 2nd Ward Councilmember Menist, 3rd Ward Council Member Brown, 5th Ward Council Member James, 6th Ward Council Member Grant, 7th Ward Council Member Patterson Thompson, 4th Ward Council Member Shook, Council Member At-Large Wilson, 8th Ward Councilmember Atonna
No/Nay:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	
Result:	Passed

1. **R-26-11**, Resolution Requesting Assistance of Assemblyman Jonathan Jacobson and State Senator Robert Rolison for the Drafting and Introduction of Legislative Bill to Permit the City of Poughkeepsie to Install Red-light Cameras and/or Speed Violation Cameras

**RESOLUTION
(R-26-11)**

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER HENRY, MENIST, BROWN, JAMES, GRANT AND ATONNA :

WHEREAS, the City of Poughkeepsie is interested in the installation of red-light cameras and/or speed violation cameras to assist in efforts for increased road safety as done in other municipalities in New York with success.

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Poughkeepsie adopts this resolution requesting the assistance of Assemblyman Jonathon Jacobson and State Senator Robert Rolison for the drafting and introduction of legislative bills to permit the City of Poughkeepsie to install red-light cameras and/or speed violation cameras on such terms as may be approved by the New York State Legislature.

XI. ACTION AGENDA: ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

XII. MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Thank you, Chair.

I want to extend my gratitude to our DPW staff and police department for their tireless efforts during the storm, working around the clock despite the challenging conditions. Their dedication has not gone unnoticed, and I appreciate all they've done throughout the weekend. I also want to remind everyone that our meetings are televised on two local channels and webcast, allowing community members to stay informed and engaged. Thanks to Councilwoman Brown for her ongoing support and enthusiasm; this is our city, and I truly value the work of all Councilmembers in our community. While there have been past divisions among Councilmembers, I'm pleased to see unity now, especially as all but one are entering their second term. Thank you all for your contributions both here and in the community.

I want to apologize for the disruptive comments that have persisted since my election, even before I was sworn in as Mayor. This ongoing negativity has overshadowed our meetings, and while the Council has endured it for some time, I believe it's reached a breaking point. Other municipalities do not tolerate such behavior, and I appreciate the Chair for taking a stand. Despite having faced intimidation and threats, I've tried to remain resilient. The situation has escalated, and it is essential to address it; enough is enough.

Regarding my social media, I want to clarify that I do not delete comments, as I believe it's important for others to see the disrespect being directed at me. I value the overwhelming encouragement and support from individuals within our community and remain focused on serving the city of Poughkeepsie. It's disheartening when meetings are overshadowed by negativity, especially when young individuals are present and need to witness positive leadership. Despite the challenges, I encourage everyone to pursue leadership roles in our community and to recognize the significant rewards that come with serving in these positions. I am proud of the work we are doing together and aim to keep fostering an environment that inspires future leaders.

XIII. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Good evening, thank you everyone for coming out too.

I want to thank all the people that came to speak. Of course, thanks to all the presenters and your opinions and bringing the information even if it's in support of certain things and not support of other things, but it's great to always have awareness.

Thank you to Chief Wilson, of course. Thank you, to Mama La's for sponsoring the Martin Luther King Jr. event.

As we enter the New Year, the Council is prioritizing several important initiatives, particularly focusing on increasing senior tax exemptions to better support our senior community. These individuals have significantly contributed to building our community, and it is essential to ensure they can afford to stay in their homes after decades of hard work. We recognize that many seniors face challenges with rising property taxes, and the goal is to help them maintain ownership of their properties effortlessly.

Additionally, the Council is committed to youth development, as highlighted by the Mayor's youth leadership program. Our community has become a nationally certified My Brother's Keeper (MBK) community, emphasizing our focus on creating a cradle-to-career pipeline. This collaborative effort aims to provide support and resources to our young people, ensuring they have the tools they need to succeed as they transition into adulthood. By addressing both senior support and youth development, we aim to enhance the quality of life for all residents in our community.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT:

At **8:40 pm** a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by 7th Ward Council Member Patterson Thompson and seconded by 3rd Ward Council Member Brown.

Official Minutes of the Common Council Meeting of January 20, 2026

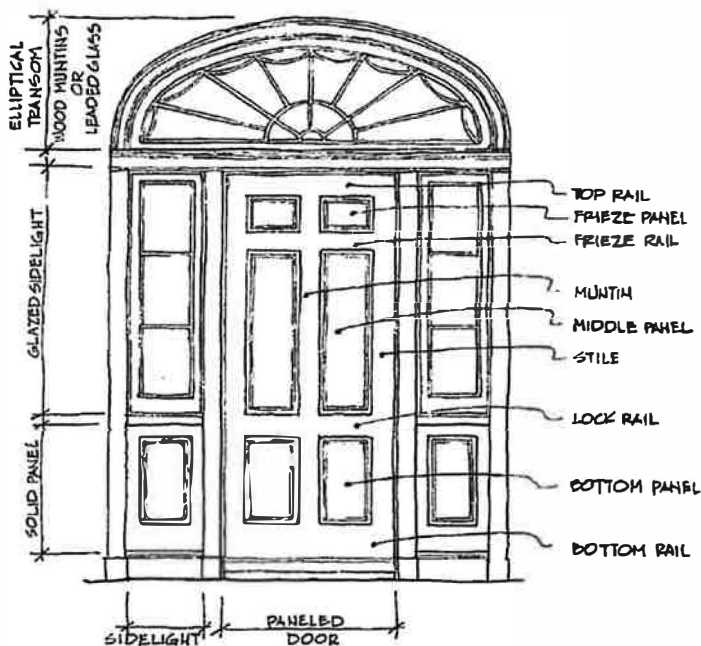
Dated: January 27, 2026

I hereby certify that this true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Common Council Meeting held on Tuesday, January 20, 2026.

**Respectfully submitted,
Donna M. DeLuca
Deputy City Chamberlain**

WAIT!

BEFORE YOU RENOVATE



BEFORE You Start Exterior Work
in a City of Poughkeepsie Historic District,
Approval may be Necessary

This brochure contains important information about the City of Poughkeepsie Historic Districts and Landmarks Commission and their review process.



WELCOME

Preserving the unique architectural character of Poughkeepsie is important to the economic prosperity of the city because it attracts visitors, residents, and businesses. Since 1969, the City of Poughkeepsie has had a local historic preservation ordinance to protect buildings and neighborhoods of special historic and architectural character from destruction, inappropriate rehabilitation, and incompatible new construction.

WHAT ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS THE OWNER OF AN HISTORIC PROPERTY?

A property owner, lessee, or purchaser under contract seeking to make any exterior changes to a property on the Local Historic Register is required to receive approval by the City of Poughkeepsie Historic Districts and Landmarks Commission (HDLPC) **PRIOR** to start construction. To confirm if your property is Historic, please visit the list of Local Landmarks at:

<https://www.cityofpoughkeepsie.com/DocumentCenter/View/4108/Historic-Resource-Inventory-by-street-2025-SimpleUpdate>

WHAT IS THE HISTORIC DISTRICTS AND LANDMARKS COMMISSION?

The HDLPC is comprised of seven volunteer members, appointed by the Mayor, with demonstrated interest in historic preservation. The HDLPC reviews exterior changes, new construction and demolition of local registry properties to preserve historic integrity of designated properties. The HDLPC bases its reviews on mandatory standards outlined in the local code available at

<https://www.cityofpoughkeepsie.com/320/Historic-District-Landmark-Preservation->

WHAT IS THE HDLPC REVIEW PROCESS?

The process begins with the submission of an application that includes photographs of existing conditions, construction plans/drawings, and material details. Applications must be submitted at least two weeks in advance of review. Once the application is deemed complete, the application is placed on the next available agenda of the HDLPC. The HDLPC meets on the second Thursday of each month at City Hall in City Council Chambers.

WHAT CHANGES TO THE EXTERIOR **DO NOT REQUIRE** HISTORIC REVIEW?

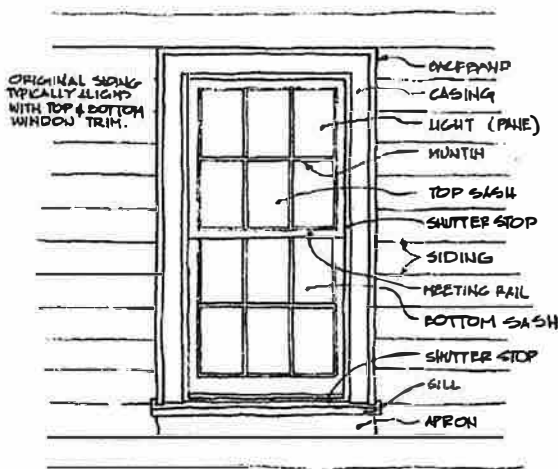
- Ordinary maintenance or repair of any exterior feature that *does not* involve a change in design, material, or exterior appearance.
- Work not involving change to the exterior or public accessed interior space

WHAT CHANGES TO THE EXTERIOR OF MY PROPERTY **DO REQUIRE** HISTORIC REVIEW?

- Construction, rehabilitation, alteration or exterior change to a structure that requires *the issuance of a building or demolition permit*.
- Installation or modification of an awning, sign, or sign structure that requires a building or sign permit.
- **ANY** changes to the exterior appearance of a structure. Such changes affect

the historic character-defining features and context of the Historic District. Those changes include:

- Addition or removal of exterior architectural features.
- Installation, removal or change of materials on exterior building elements including but not limited to roof, siding, windows, doors, porches, and the like.
- Enclosure or screening of building openings.
- Installation, removal or change in material of driveways or walkways.
- Installation or removal of architectural or vegetative screening.



GOOD PRESERVATION PRACTICES ARE ENCOURAGED

- Preserve rather than remove architectural features.
- Repair rather than replace. If replacement is necessary, replacement materials should match the original in visual qualities.
- Replacement of original natural materials with synthetic materials is discouraged.
- Replacement windows should match original windows in terms of design, materials, the number of divided lights, size of the opening and placement in the plane of the building. Where original examples are not available, replacements should reflect a design appropriate to the style and period of the structure.
- Additions should be compatible with the existing structure and the surrounding Historic District, distinguishable as an addition, and not overshadow the existing historic structure.

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS

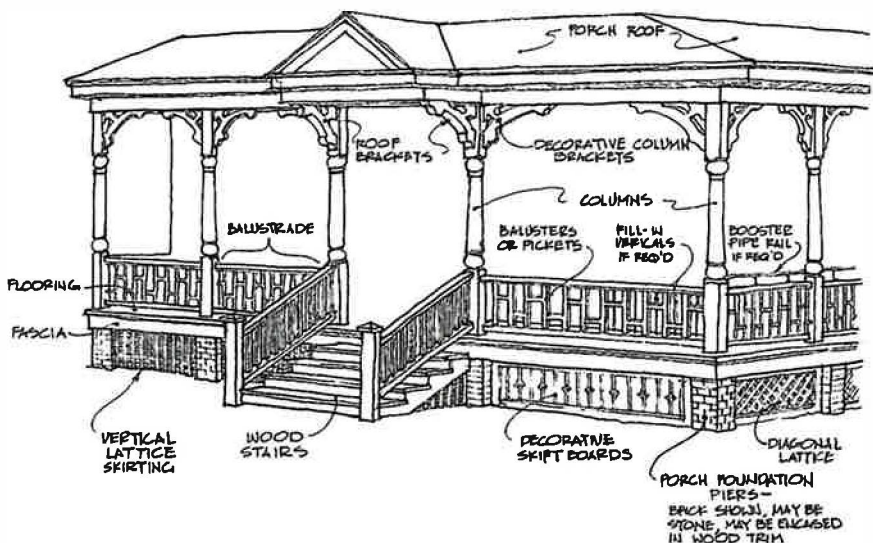
- Review the HDLPC Ordinance and guidelines when planning your project.
- Submit a complete application. Your review will go more smoothly.
- Do **NOT** order or buy materials for your project or begin construction without HDLPC approval, as approval is not guaranteed.
- There are specific requirements for demolition in Historic Districts.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION RESOURCES

Visit the City of Poughkeepsie website at:

<https://www.cityofpoughkeepsie.com/320/Historic-District-Landmark-Preservation-> for resources to assist with planning your project. There you will find the Zoning Code, Section 19-5.21 Historic District and Landmark Preservation Commission. For information on NYS tax credit programs please visit <https://parks.ny.gov/shpo/tax-credit-programs/>

The HDLPC webpage has links to a map of local Historic properties, application materials, and Historic District Design Guidelines, which include general information, porches & decks, roofs, windows, exterior colors, ordinary maintenance and solar panels.

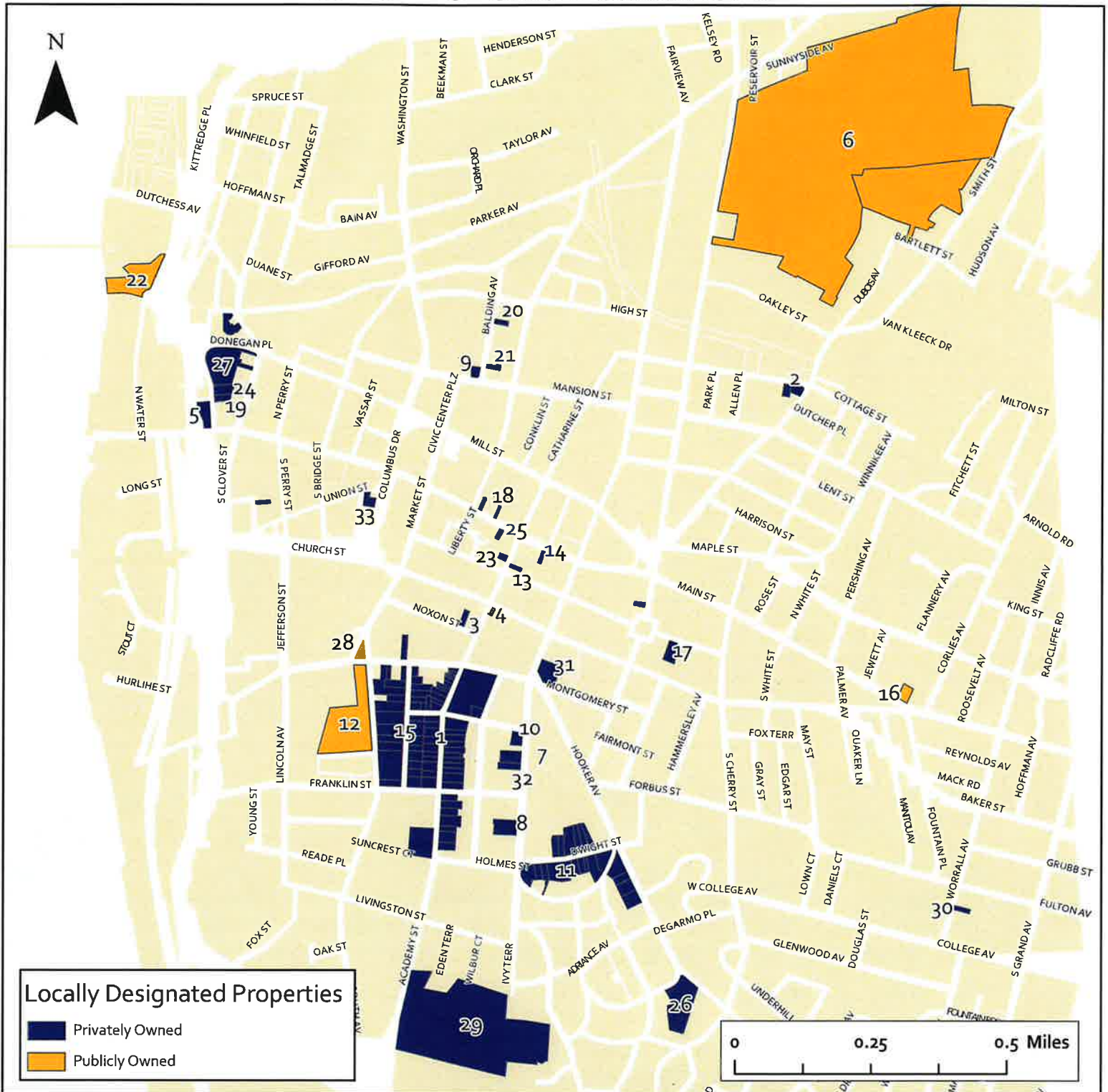


The staff of the City's Development Department in City Hall is available to provide assistance and answer questions.

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

City of Poughkeepsie City Hall
62 Civic Center Plaza
Tel: (845) 451-4263

City of Poughkeepsie Local Register of Historic Districts and Landmarks



#	Name	#	Name	#	Name	#	Name
1	Academy Street Historic District	11	Dwight Hooker Historic District	21	Hermance House	31	Vassar-Warner Home
2	African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church	12	Eastman Park Oval	22	Hoffman House and Reynolds Homestead	32	Wilkinson House
3	Barrett Art Center	13	Enquirer Building	23	Lady Washington Fire House	33	Zimmer House
4	Cannon House	14	French Pastry Shop Building	24	Levi Lumb House (Holy Comforter Rectory)		
5	Church of the Holy Comforter	15	Garfield Place Historic District	25	Livingston Buildings		
6	College Hill Park	16	Glebe House	26	Morschauser House		
7	Corlies-Brinckerhoff-Rutherford House and Carriage Barn	17	Governor Clinton School No.8	27	Pelton Mansion		
8	Corlies-Ritter-Hart House	18	Grant Building	28	Soldier's Fountain and Park		
9	Cossum House	19	Harloe House	29	Springside Landscape and Porter's Lodge		
10	Currier House	20	Hasbrouck House	30	Travis House		



The City of Poughkeepsie has many treasured historic districts and local landmarks that have been designated as such to celebrate these sites and preserve their historic character. Exterior work on these properties are reviewed by the Historic Districts and Landmarks Preservation Commission. To learn more scan the QR code or type this link into your browser www.cityofpoughkeepsie.com/320/Historic-District-Landmark-Preservation-