THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE
NEW YORK

PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, January 19, 2010	**5:30 pm**	**City Hall**

Rachel Ruth 100 College Avenue- stated before the Council that she has been a city homeowner for 30 years. She stated that she is attracted to the city due to the historic character. The new-comers to the city need to develop character in the community; she urges the Common Council to invite tax base to preserve the ordinance.

Harvey Flad- 115 Academy Street-

HARVEY K. FLAD

115 ACADEMY STREET
POUGHKEEPSIE NY 12601
845-471-5376

To: City of Poughkeepsie Common Council January 19, 2010

Subject: Historic Preservation Ordinance Review

In a quotation to introduce the Epilogue to my book on the history of Poughkeepsie and the region *Main Street to Mainframes: Landscape and Social Change in Poughkeepsie* (co-authored with Vassar College colleague and social historian Clyde Griffen and published by the State University of New York Press in 2009), Anne Whitson Spirn, professor of landscape architecture and urban history at M.I.T., presents a strong argument for the preservation of a city's historical and cultural resources: "*If cities are seen as treasures of civilization, they will be made treasures through cultivation. If cities are seen as degraded, they will be made so through neglect.*"

One way many cities fight neglect and further their economic growth is through heritage tourism. Historic and cultural resources are identified and measures implemented to assist in their preservation and use. The City of Poughkeepsie has identified many structures, sites and neighborhoods and designated Historic Districts that offer a sense of place to the city and the region, as noted on the city's Historic Properties map (2007 ed.).

Historic Districts are one tool to fight neglect. They have had a positive effect on the city's development as homeowners have invested in, kept up and improved their properties. Meanwhile, a number of publicly owned properties speak to the city's role in the 400-year history of the Hudson River Valley, such as the Hoffman and Reynolds buildings at Upper Landing at the mouth of the Fall Kill, where the city began. Planning for the development of this site for heritage tourism could be advanced if the city became a Certified Local Government (CLG).

Historic Ordinances are another tool that the city can use to promote quality of life. Over time, as circumstances change, they, like all aspects of land use planning, may need to be upgraded. This past year, the older, previous ordinance was examined, discussed and revised to create a stronger document. After public debate, it was passed by the Common Council. I suggest that it be maintained to advance the importance of history as a cultural and economic force for Poughkeepsie.

Yours truly,

Harvey K. Flad, Ph.D.

Richard Hampster -8 Garfield Place- wanted to thank the Common Council. He brought in a petition that he would like to re-submit regarding the proposal being discussed. He stated that he owned a historic home for 17 years and it is hard maintaining it. The economy is currently in bad shape. He strongly believes that a lot of people will have to relocate; there will be drove of new comers. A model will be Stanford, CT he completed a lot of research and looked at CLG ordinances. He urges the Common Council to take the common sense approach and encourage residents to invest.

August 13, 2009

To: Mayor John Tkazyik

Council members: Thomas Parise, Joe Rich, Robert Mallory, Jr, Brian Doyle, Penny Lewis, Mary Solomon, Gwen Johnson & Dennis Weinel

The following residents (over the age of 18 years) all reside in the Garfield/Academy Local Historic District or the Dwight Street Local Historic District or another individual local historic designated home in the City of Poughkeepsie. We are against the proposed legislation to change the local historic districts by the proposed legislation. We urge the Mayor and the Council members to vote AGAINST the proposed changes in the local historic ordinances.

Resident Name	Signature	Street Address
1. Arthur W. Brannan	Arthur W. Brannan	22 Garfield Pl.
2. Rosarie Brannan	Rosarie Brannan	22 Garfield Pl
3. KEN LEVINSON	Kenneth Levinson	24 GARFIELD PL.
4. Lindsay Levinson	Lindsay Levinson	24 Garfield Pl.
5. Donna (Bunnie) Levinson	Donna Levinson	24 Garfield Place
6. Joshua B. Levinson	[illegible]	24 Garfield Place
7. Melanie Vetter	Melanie Vetter	28 Garfield Place
8. David Schneck	David Schneck	19 Garfield Place
9. GAIL SISK	Gail Sisk	9 Garfield Place
10. Don Puretz	DON PURETZ	11 Garfield Pl
11. ANNE L. BOTSFORD	Anne L. Botsford	11 Garfield Place
12. ED PURETZ	[illegible]	11 GARFIELD PL.
13. Henry Puretz	Henry Puretz	9A Garfield Pl
14. Katie Gardner	[illegible]	9A Garfield Pl
15. Thérèse LeMelle	Thérèse LeMelle	12 Garfield Pl

Continuation of Petition to REJECT any changes to local historic ordinances

16.	Peter Redhead	Peter D Redhead	12 Garfield Place
17.	Maria Amster	[illegible]	8 Garfield Pl
18.	Richard Amster	[illegible]	8 Garfield Pl
19.	RUBEN F. LOPEZ	[illegible]	15 GARFIELD PL
20.	Suzanne Gilbert	S. Gilbert	9 Garfield Place
21.	ANN Marie Jones	Ann Marie Jones	69 MONTGOMERY ST
22.	Edward Kovalsky	Edward Kovalsky	69 MONTGOMERY ST
23.	Hugh Edmonds	Hugh Edmonds	13 Garfield Pl.
24.	Rosa Maceira	Rosa Maceira	13 Garfield Pl.
25.	[illegible]	DOUGLAS GARRITY	16 Garfield PL
26.	Gail Cassle	Gail Cassle	20 Garfield PL
27.	[illegible]	Tom Cassle	20 Garfield PL
28.	Doris Manigault	DORIS MANIGAULT	25 GARFIELD
29.	Holly Wahlberg	Holly Wahlberg	35 Garfield Place
30.	Kevin J. Cleary	KEVIN CLEARY	35 GARFIELD PL.

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Resident Name	Signature	Street Address
1. Linda Moore	Linda Moore	124 Academy St
2. Ronald Green	[illegible]	127 Academy ST.
3. Marline Martin by proxy	[illegible]	110 Academy St.
4. Raymond E Schuckmann Jr.		127 Academy St.
5.		
6.		

Maria Amster- 8 Garfield Place- She shared a story of a friend that purchased a home on Mill Street. The home was very old and required a lot of work, and money to maintain. She expressed that she is very upset about the CLG. She does not want to purchase a home; a select few have been singled out to have penalties. She feels that people are being forced to leave and abandon their homes. The Council should consider the going back to the ordinance. The city should not consider CLG; residents will fight to benefit the city.

Virginia Hancock- 26 Lockermann Avenue- she stated that she is a 30 year resident of Poughkeepsie, she has been involved in many projects, groups. She stated that there must be a misunderstanding regarding the CLG. CLG is used as a resource to assist in planning. CLG is the means of helping restructure what we have.

Michael Fitz Morris- 19 Balding Avenue- stated that he has been a resident since 1999 and has restored 3 houses. The houses that he restored were: 1 on Garden Street, and 2 on Balding Avenue. Most of the houses that he has restored were not owned by city residents. A few homes are on the tipping point 4 abandoned, 2 family homes, and Victorian homes with plumbing issues. He is afraid to invest any further in city of Poughkeepsie properties. The Historic Ordinance will help with restoring properties there is some hope. He encourages the Common Council to keep historic ordinance.

George Lukacs City Historian-Overocker Road- stated that he became a historian to revitalize interest, “Queen City” no longer industrial city ethnic influences. The civic responsibility is to reserve the identity of the city; a historic structure can not be restored once changed. When we succeed the city will be a success, with CLG there will be a better opportunity to help historic properties.

Jenn Rubbo- Hyde Park- submitted a letter to the Council

Clearwater™

Mayor John Tkazyik
62 Civic Center Plaza
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

January 19, 2010

Dear Mayor Tkazyik:

It has been brought to our attention that the City of Poughkeepsie will be voting to repeal the newly established Historic Preservation legislation that was passed this past November. As a stakeholder in the City of Poughkeepsie, Clearwater would like to offer some comments, for the record, in this regard.

Currently, the Poughkeepsie waterfront is undergoing revitalization, with the addition of Shadows on the Hudson and the work done by the Bonura Family, the waterfront promises to be a destination for entertainment and enjoyment of our beautiful Hudson River. It is Clearwater's feeling that these private, business-based plans be balanced with public access and education. In particular, the parcel of land that currently houses the Hoffman House and Reynolds House provides the perfect opportunity to create a public education park that celebrates the important role this parcel, once known as Upper Landing, played in the establishment of the City of Poughkeepsie and the development of Dutchess County in general. It will provide an important physical connection between the much used Waryas Park, Mid-Hudson Children's Museum and Walkway over the Hudson.

In addition, it is located adjacent to the Fall Kill Creek. Over the past two years the City has taken great pride in helping Clearwater and the Fall Kill Watershed Committee clean up the creek. Retaining the portion of land at the mouth of the Creek as a public, educational reminder of Poughkeepsie's history will preserve community character and enhance the feelings of pride and ownership that are imperative in transforming the creek into an asset for the City.

It is our fear that repealing the ordinance recently enacted by the City will be detrimental to the vision of many in the city who would like to see this parcel of land used for the education and benefit of all city residents. In addition, we will feel that the historic preservation of the City of Poughkeepsie is of utmost importance and repealing this ordinance will be a step backward in the city's plans of revitalization. As a river town, and the "Queen City of the Hudson", it is the City's responsibility to protect those properties that have added to the rich and diverse history of the City of Poughkeepsie.

In light of the current Fall Kill Intermunicipal Agreement, and the recent support that the City has shown for Clearwater and the Fall Kill Watershed Committee, we hope that the city council will see the new ordinance as an extension of the work done to protect the history of the Hudson and the Fall Kill Creek and will reconsider the repeal proposed today. We also encourage you to contact us to discuss how the Poughkeepsie waterfront plans can be connected to our regional plans to create a National River Park as well as Green Cities along the Hudson River.

Thank you,

Jeff Rumpf
Executive Director, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc

Manna Jo Greene
Environmental Action Director,
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.

Jennifer Rubbo, Fall Kill Watershed Coordinator, Clearwater

724 Wolcott Avenue, Beacon, NY 12508 • 845-265-8080 • Fax 845-831-2821 • email: office@clearwater.org • www.clearwater.org

Jeanette Peterson- 2 Dwight Street- stated that he was new to the historic ordinance and an owner of property on Dwight Street. He stated that the designated historic ordinance moved to Poughkeepsie in 1966. Since that time there has been an inevitable decline of the City of Poughkeepsie. Prior to residing in Poughkeepsie he resided in Camden, NJ. Poughkeepsie is on the point of revitalization for example, the Lucky Platt building, and restoring store fronts on Main Street. She wanted to make sure the Council is aware that the decline of the City of Poughkeepsie is not due to the historic ordinance. The city of Poughkeepsie planning department should revitalize/develop our city.

Dr. Donald H. Gurst Garfield Place- Stated before the Council that he has resided at Garfield Place for 30 years. He has raised 2 children and 4 grandchildren 4 generations. The historic district has improved. He really believes that the Common Council members should repeal the veto!

Russ Johnson 11 Garfield Place- stated that he came to this area 3 years ago looking for property in the Hudson River Valley; he chose the city of Poughkeepsie. He stated that he restored a home in PA. He bought 4 apartments on Poughkeepsie; he is currently restoring it to a single family home. He is attempting to keep the value to a single family home. He recommends the Common Council votes to keep the historic ordinance.

Nancy Cozean 111 Hooker Avenue- There has been 50 events to recapture the history of the city of Poughkeepsie. Poughkeepsie is truly a "Queen City" and she is proud of its heritage. The city of Poughkeepsie to this day has historic Dutch property. CLG is not something that is forced on home owners. The city of Poughkeepsie can not get funding without CLG; if repealed there will be no funding give CLG a chance for betterment of the "Queen City".

John Mylod 100 Beechwood Avenue-

John Mylod
P.O. Box 1169
Poughkeepsie, NY 12602
845 452- 2324

January 19, 2010

Hon. John Tkazyik
Mayor, City of Poughkeepsie
Members of the Common Council
City Hall
Poughkeepsie, NY

By Email

Subject: Historic Opportunity at Upper Landing Is At Hand

Dear Mayor Tkazyik and Members of the Council.

The history of the City of Poughkeepsie begins at the mouth of the Fallkill Creek

Once commonly known as Upper Landing, the area today provides a unique and tremendously exciting opportunity to tell Poughkeepsie's story.

Remarkably, Central Hudson's century-long ownership of much of the Landing has kept the basic outline of this historic area intact and it still includes both the Hoffman House and the Reynolds House, two of Poughkeepsie's oldest structures. The inspired purchase of the Landing by the City not long ago now provides incredible possibilities for the use of this public property to create an Upper Landing History Park, a vibrant hub for education and a destination for tourism.

Here, a demonstration "village" could be developed to fit the property and designed to be in keeping with the natural and historic aspects of the site. The creek could be tapped to demonstrate its early commercial use to drive machinery and hands on, working exhibits could tell a powerful story of industry and innovation that every school student in Poughkeepsie could experience.

It was here in the summer of 1687 that the first European settlers landed on the beach of a protected cove where the Fallkill meets the river. The men, Baltus Van Kleeck and Hendrick Ostrom floated their belongings and home-building lumber ashore from the sloop which had brought them from Albany. They moved inland along what is now Mill Street and established farms.

Before long, Myndert Harmense. one of the original patent holders of a land grant that is now Poughkeepsie, also moved here from Albany. He soon built a sawmill at the mouth of the Fallkill which expanded the commercial use of a new crossroads for trade and travel that eventually became known as Upper Landing.

From the City's earliest days this area at the mouth of the Fallkill was crucial for the development of the local community as well as the surrounding County. Upper Landing

became one of the busiest commercial areas on the Hudson and a critical link in the transport of people and materiale to and from Poughkeepsie during the Revolutionary War.

Indeed, Poughkeepsie at that time was one of the two or three busiest villages in the State.and the site of the construction of two large frigates that were directed to be built here by Congress. In 1778 the State Capital was located here after Kingston was burned by the British the previous autumn. Certainly members of the Legislature traveled in and out of the village by way of the Landing and also found lodging there.

Here, too, was one of the earliest sites for ferry service to Highland and was the riverfront terminus of Mill Street. Eventually, the Landing was enlarged to include docks, sloop businesses, two saw mills, a freighting service, several mills and the homes of the families with business interests at the Landing.

The emergence of an Upper Landing History Park could be facilitated through the cooperation and coordination of The Mid Hudson Children's Museum, the D.C. Historical Society, the Poughkeepsie Board of Education, local college community programs, and interested individuals. Funding would come from private foundations as well as State and Federal grants programs, individual contributions and user fees.

The opportunities for public education and historic preservation at Upper Landing are compelling and powerful. In the long run, too, the success of the Walkway Over The Hudson will enhance the success of an Upper Landing History Park as a tourist destination and the story of the bridge is a part of the Landing's importance. It could also be the anchor of the Fallkill Creek Watershed Management Plan now being developed.

I hope that the Administration and Common Council will give these ideas serious consideration and, perhaps, convene a meeting of interested individuals and organizations to discuss the possibilities that could unfold at this important site in the City's history.

Sincerely,
John Mylod

cc Michael Long City Administrator
Ed Glisson Mid Hudson Children's Museum
Holly Wahlberg D.C. Historical Society

Holly Wahlberg 35 Garfield Place- stated that historic ordinances have always been essential in any city. Visual inspection shows buildings can be inspected and destroyed. She wanted to know if the Council contacted legislation, staff members in Poughkeepsie, Clinton, New Paltz, and Saugerties. Ordinances are viewed as strengths not weaknesses "this place matters".

John Fisher-149 Academy Street- stated before the Council that the prior historic ordinance was in affect for 30 years and the city once had beautiful properties. Older properties over the last 100 years craftsmanship can not be replaced. To repair older homes will enhance the homes. Dutchess County/the city of Poughkeepsie is losing history property should outlast us all. He is greatly disappointed about the historic ordinance. The Common Council must vote to oppose desegregation that power does not exist. Other changes are renaming, and shortening the appeals process related to

hardships. The new ordinance is easier to understand and will assist these properties with the necessary checks and balances. These are key benefits.

Chairman Klein adjourned the Public Hearing at 6:29 p. m.

Dated: April 16, 2010

I hereby certify that this a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Public Hearing held on Tuesday, January 19, 2010 at 5:30 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,
Arlet C. Wilks
Deputy City Chamberlain