



## CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT ANNUAL REPORT

**Date Submitted:** 11/4/2024

**Municipality:** Town of West Seneca

**Report filed by:** Paul Lang, AIA

**Phone/E-mail:** 716-704-0362

### ***Instructions:***

- All questions refer to FY2024 (October 1, 2023-September 30, 2024). Please provide data only for the period of FY2024.
- Any revisions to the local historic preservation made during the fiscal year **must** be attached to this annual report as a separate document.
- Please email this completed report to [Frances.Stern@parks.ny.gov](mailto:Frances.Stern@parks.ny.gov) by **November 15<sup>th</sup>**.

### ***Historic Preservation Commission/Board***

- a. *Please list the names and email addresses of current commission members and any relevant municipal staff who should remain on our contact lists:*

Paul Lang, Chairperson - [plang@carminawooddesign.com](mailto:plang@carminawooddesign.com)  
Raymond Ball - [rayzor30@verizon.net](mailto:rayzor30@verizon.net)  
Fran D-Amico - [billsfran@aol.com](mailto:billsfran@aol.com)  
Michael Siuta - [michaelsiuta@msn.com](mailto:michaelsiuta@msn.com)  
TWS Councilmember Susan Kims - Board Liason - [skims@TWSNY.org](mailto:skims@TWSNY.org)  
Molly Martin - Deputy Town Clerk - [mam@TWSNY.org](mailto:mam@TWSNY.org)  
Maureen Berbarly \* pending TWS Board Approval of Membership

- b. *How many meetings has the commission/board held during the year?* 12

- c. *Has there ever been an absence of a quorum and/or inability of the commission/board to conduct business due to issues with membership? Please explain:*

One month during the summer we were unable to achieve a quorum, however work which was postponed was made up during a work session between meetings.

### ***Training***

- a. *What historic preservation training/workshops or meetings did commission/board members attend during the year?*

Commission members attended the annual New York State Historic Preservation Conference, have participated in the virtual education sessions hosted by NY SHPO, and most readily had training / education from Julian Adams, donated by Carmina Wood Design.

b. *Please indicate what, if any, information or training the CLG needs from the SHPO:*

Commision is looking forward to the release of the CLG manual / guidelines which we know are under production. Other than that we are pleased with the offerings made available both via conference as well as the virtual sessions.

### **Survey/Inventory**

a. *Did your local government conduct a historic resources survey? How many properties were surveyed?* 2 Proposed Districts ( +/- 55 Properties in Total )

b. *Did your local government designate any local landmarks or historic districts? How many locally designated historic properties did your local government add to your CLG inventory?*

Zero properties were added this year. Two districts are currently under draft nominations via our consultant Preservation Studios, and the Commissions continues to work with the Town Board for adoption of certification guidelines and procedures.

### **Design Review**

a. *How many historic properties did your local government review for compliance with your local government's historic preservation regulatory law?*

Zero.

b. *Briefly describe any difficult cases or any recurrent design review issues that have been problematic:*

N/A

### **Difficulties**

*In developing and administering historic preservation programs, has the CLG encountered any difficulties with administrative procedures, enforcement, staffing, funding and/or public support? Please explain:*

In 2024 the Commission has independently developed nomination and applicaiton procedures for listing historic landmarks, while also adapting legislation for demolition review / input. All of that documentation has been submitted to the Town Board with formal presentation to be forthcoming. Would have been beneficial if tools / mechanisms for oversight / review were included in base Preservation Law used for the creation of the Commission. Support from Julian Adams has been invaluable in creation of these to help get process rolling, without we would have been floundering.

With rollout we anticipate push back from community based upon uninformed opinions of what historic designations could do to properties. Would be great if base materials were available to assist us in explanation or outreach to the community.

## **Overall CLG Program**

a. *Briefly describe any CLG special achievements/successes for the period of review:*

Creation of the Landmark Application, Demolition Oversight Ordinance, and Demolition application we feel are outstanding achievements. Hoping to have them approved by end of the year.

b. *Please list or describe any goals or new initiatives for the upcoming year:*

Listing our first districts and or properties. With guidelines and process in place, we then hope to list 1 additional property a month for 2025.

## **Local Tax Incentives**

*Does your local government have a local historic preservation tax incentives program that includes your office in some level of review or oversight? For example, NY Real Property Tax Law §444-a also known as the Ithaca Bill. How many owners have taken advantage of those incentives?*

I do not believe so, and therefore none.

## **Local “Bricks and Mortar” Grant or Loan Program**

*Does your local government have a locally funded, historic preservation grant or loan program that is run through, administered, or reviewed by your office? How many properties have been assisted?*

I do not believe so, and therefore none.

## **Local Property Acquisition Program**

*Does your local government by purchase, donation, condemnation, or other means help to acquire or acquire itself some degree of title (e.g., fee simple interest or an easement) in historic properties? How many have been assisted or carried out by your local government?*

I do not believe so, and therefore none.