



CITY OF
**Eau
Claire**

**Landmarks Commission
Agenda
September 9, 2024**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that there will be a meeting of the City of Eau Claire Landmarks Commission on Monday, September 9, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. in the North Conference Room at City Hall, 203 S. Farwell Street, Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

The following items will be on the agenda:

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Approval of 3/4/24 Minutes
4. Local Landmarking of Forest Hill Cemetery Discussion
5. CLG Grant Letter of Intent
6. Historic Preservation Foundation Q&A on the Proposed Zoning Code
7. Future agenda items and announcements
8. Adjournment

In order to accommodate the participation of individuals with special needs at this meeting, the City will provide the services of a sign language interpreter or make other reasonable accommodations on request. To make such a request, please notify the City at 715-839-4902 at least two days prior to the meeting.

Peter Baumgartner
Associate Planner

c: News Media

Attachment 1



Landmarks Commission Minutes March 3, 2023

Members Present: Raivo Balciunas, Dave Barnes, Jenny Ebert, Robert Gough, Greg Kocken

Members Absent: Charlie Johnson, Rick Schemm

Staff Present: Peter Baumgartner, Ned Noel, Steve Plaza

The following items were on the agenda:

- 1. Call to order**
Chair Ebert called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m.
- 2. Roll call**
Roll was taken and a quorum was present.
- 3. Election of Officers**
 - a. Chair
 - i. Jenny Ebert was nominated for the Chair nominated by Member Gough, Second by Member Balciunas, and approved unanimously.
 - b. Vice-chair
 - i. Greg Kocken was nominated for Vice-Chair by Member Barnes, Second by Member Gough, and approved unanimously.
 - c. Secretary
 - i. Raivo Balciunas was nominated for Secretary by Vice-Chair Kocken, Second by Member Gough, and approved unanimously.
- 4. Approval of 11/13/23 Minutes**
Member Gough moved to approve and Member Balciunas seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- 5. Landmarking of Forest Hill Cemetery.**
Noel gave an overview of past discussion, he then introduced Steve Plaza to the Commission and mentioned that Parks will be building a retaining wall in the cemetery this year.

The conversation between staff and the Landmarks Commission was centered around city staff being able to do the maintenance that they need to do when they need to do it, a potential master plan for Plank Hill and it's associated walking trail/outlook, and the review future expansions and mausoleums. Plaza stated that he wasn't opposed to the Landmarks Commission's review of future projects, it just needs to be discussed internally more. Ultimately, it was decided that staff should look into whether they can just make up rules for cemeteries and landscapes and request a copy of La Crosses landmarks nomination.

A motion to pursue locally landmarking the cemetery was made by Secretary Balciunas and Seconded by Vice-Chair Kocken, and approved unanimously.

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6. **Bronze Plaques**

Baumgartner led a discussion on plaques, going over the quotes that he had received from two nearby companies and that staff was thinking that they'd be used for non-residential properties. The following comments were provided by the commissioners:

- A grant should be pursued for funding and staff should maybe look at 17 of the most high-profile sites for plaques. Staff will check with the state on grants.
- Perhaps a plaque district should be established
- Are there any local companies that could do the work. Staff noted that Artisan Forge said they could not do it.
- Staff should keep using the current logo, maybe scale it down a bit to save on costs.
- The plaques efforts should focus on the downtown as a district, but they could be appropriate in any commercial district.

7. **2023 Annual GLG Report**

Baumgartner briefly went over the answers that were submitted for the 2023 Annual GLG Report. Staff will let the commissioners know if there are any future training opportunities for the commissioners.

8. **Future agenda items and announcements**

- Chair Ebert mentioned that the landmark booklets could be given to museums and that the paper could highlight one landmarked property a week for National Preservation Month,
 - Noel suggested that he talk to Aiden about it.

9. **Adjournment**

Chair Ebert called for adjournment of the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Submitted by,



Raivo Balciunas
Secretary

Attachment 2

City of Eau Claire Landmark Nomination

1. Name

Forest Hill Cemeteries

and/or common Forest Hill

2. Location

street & number 822 Emery Street

city, town: Eau Claire

state: Wisconsin zip code: 54701 county: Eau Claire

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<u>Public Acquisition</u>	<u>Accessible</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Cemetery

4. Owner of Property

name City of Eau Claire

street & number 203 S. Farwell Street

city, town Eau Claire vicinity of state WI zip 54701

5. Location of Legal Description (in County Courthouse)

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Eau Claire County

street & number 721 Oxford Avenue

city, town Eau Claire state WI

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Title Historic Property Intensive Survey Update

date May 1997 federal state county local

depository for survey records Eau Claire City Hall

city, town Eau Claire state WI

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7. Description

<u>Condition</u>		<u>Check one</u>	<u>Check one</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance and historical information.

Burials began in or near what is now Forest Hill Cemetery in the late 1850s. The town of Eau Claire acquired land within the present boundaries of the cemetery in 1862, and there are several tombstones existing from the 1860s. The cemetery was formally established in 1872 by the new City of Eau Claire, which was created at that time by the amalgamation of several existing municipalities. Management of the cemetery became a responsibility of a City Council committee. In the 1870s burials became numerous on the lower level near the western end of the cemetery at Emery St., along its northern edge at Huebsch Blvd, and on the upper level near the head of the stairway from the lower level. Further land acquisitions by the City enabled eastward expansion of the lower level and most cemetery lots west of what is now Chapel Drive had been sold by about 1910. With funds from his wife's estate, in 1908 Henry C. Putnam built the Jane C. Putnam Memorial Chapel (NRHP 99001563) at the junction of Chapel Drive and Forest Hill Drive. After 1910, mostly by City purchase from the John S. Owen Lumber Co., the cemetery expanded eastward to its present boundaries by about 1920. Nine free-standing mausoleums were constructed in the cemetery between about 1910 and 1925. Many burials during the 1920s and 1930s were in the sloping saddle in the northern side of the hill, which is now block I. The eastern end of the lower level was drained and leveled during the 1930s and 1940s consistent with the City's 1935 policy of permitting new burials only with horizontal burial markers on level ground. On the upper level, burials slowly moved eastward, and in the 1970s the cemetery created Babyland, so that infants could be interred economically. Altogether, by 2023 there have been over 13,000 burials in Forest Hill Cemetery.

8. Significance (continue on separate sheets if necessary)

<u>Period</u>	<u>Areas of Significance</u> – Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology – prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology – historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900 -	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates: 1862, 1872, 1908, 1935

Builder/Architect: Unknown Minneapolis Architect

Statement of Significance (give specific sources for all statements of fact)

Forest Hill Cemetery is important for its landscape architecture. It is an interesting example of a nineteenth-century Rural or Country Cemetery in a mid-sized Midwestern city which developed organically and not from a rigid plan. Topographically, the cemetery is on two levels separated by a steep wooded hillside. It features inspiring landscape views and architectural features that align with the Country Cemetery Movement. The hill at the eastern end of the cemetery has been the site for at least a century of winter sports activities (a kind of recreation seen perhaps nowhere else in

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cemeteries in the United States). Forest Hill Cemetery provides the spiritual and physical rejuvenation that the County Cemetery Movement wanted cemeteries to provide for the living.

The cemetery is also important historically. By its continuous public ownership and management, it was a unifying factor in what started out in 1872 as a significantly divided City. Burials came from all classes and all religious groups from all parts of the City—there were no separate sections by religion. The cemetery shows the historical development of the City. For example, its burial monuments reveal changes in its population, from Yankees to Germans and Norwegians, to Hmong in the twenty-first century. Of course, the cemetery is the burial site of many prominent individuals affiliated with political, civic, religious, and business affairs. In sum, the cemetery is central to understanding the history of Eau Claire.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Robert J. Gough and Gregory Kocken, *Rest in Nature: A Guide to Eau Claire's Forest Hill Cemetery* (Eau Claire: Chippewa Valley Museum Press, 2022).

10. Form Prepared By

name/title: Peter Baumgartner, Associate Planner

organization: City of Eau Claire

date 4/24/2024

street & number: 203 S. Farwell Street

telephone: 715-839-4914

city or town: Eau Claire

state: Wisconsin

Commission Actions

Hearing Date Authorized on: 9/9/24 Hearing Date Set for: TBD

Landmark Designated (date): _____ Number: TBD

Findings of Significance: _____

Forest Hill Cemetery exemplifies or reflects the broad cultural, economic, and social history of the State and community; and

Embodies the distinguishing, organic characteristics of landscape architecture found in nineteenth-century Rural Cemetery's, it's inherently valuable for the study of that particular period's design; and

Exemplifies or reflects the broad cultural, political, economic or social history of the community and is the resting place of several historic personages connected with important events in state or local history.

Certified by: _____ Date: _____
Commission Chairman

Attachment 3

September 9, 2024

Jason Tish
Certified Local Government Coordinator
State Historic Preservation Office
816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706-1482

Dear Jason:

This letter serves as your notification that the City of Eau Claire Landmarks Commission will be considering the submittal of an application for grant funds in December for the Certified Local Government Grant Program. The Commission is interested in nationally landmarking a portion of Forest Hill Cemetery and would be looking to hire a consultant to prepare the application. The Commission has not discussed specific cost figures for the project as of yet.

If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call.