



State of Nevada
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Joe Lombardo, *Governor*
Vinson Guthreau, *Director*
Arthur Krupicz, *Administrator*
Joseph Curtis, *Chair*

MINUTES OF THE COMSTOCK HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

DATE: Tuesday, August 4, 2026

PLACE: Comstock Historic District Commission Office, 20 North E. Street, Virginia City, Nevada 89440

WORKSHOP MEETING: None

REGULAR MEETING TIME: 5:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER: 5:02 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. Pledge of Allegiance taken out of order. Taken after commissioner roll call. The Pledge was recited.

COMMISSIONER ROLL CALL. Quorum was achieved.

Joe Curtis – Present
Clay Mitchell – Present
Mercedes de la Garza – Present
David Bates – Present
Calvin Dillon – Present
Nancy Cleaves – Present
Julie Workman – Present (Virtually)
Tammy Hendrix – Absent

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Administrator, Art Krupicz – Present
Deputy Attorney General, Alexa Ravencroft – Present
Comstock Preservation & History Officer, Jason Lilienthal – Present

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 4, 2026 MEETING AGENDA.

Mercedes de la Garza moved to approve, David Bates seconded. The August meeting agenda was approved unanimously.

OPENING PUBLIC COMMENT.

Comstock Historic District Commission (CHDC) Chair, Joe Curtis, opened the meeting to public comment by stating that comments relevant to the CHDC would be taken at the beginning and at the end of the meeting and at the discretion of the Chair on agenda items listed for possible action.

Comments were limited to three minutes per person and not restricted by viewpoint. It was advised that no action would be taken on any matters raised during the public comment period and all members of the public providing comment would first be asked to begin by stating their name for the record. The Chair opened the floor to the public for comment.

No public comment made.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS.

- I. Chair Report – Joe Curtis mentioned that the Comstock History Center has a new Preservation & History Officer, Jason Lilienthal. Continued speaking on the matter of shipping containers in the historic district to be addressed at future time. Also mentioned that the Comstock History Center has a new Facilities Supervisor, Marc Ennis, who helped passed the recent fire inspections. Reported the account balance from the donations box is at approximately \$28,900.
- II. Commissioner Comments – Mercedes de la Garza attended a National Trust workshop and the potential changes to the section 106 process. Suggested that commissioners refresh their knowledge of the National Preservation Act of 1966.
- III. Preservation Officer's Report – Introduced himself – Jason Lilienthal – taking over from his predecessor as the Comstock Preservation & History Officer. Informed the commission that four administrative approvals were issued since assuming the position. Informed the commission of an upcoming NAPC Camp Training for CLGs (Certified Local Governments) happening in September along with a tour of Virginia City led by the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on Saturday, September 26, 2026. CLG Coordinator – Jean-Guy T. Dube – will send an email to all commission members around August 14th with further details on the camp training and tour.

APPROVAL OF February 3, 2026 MEETING MINUTES.

Clay Mitchell motioned for approval of the February minutes. Motion seconded by Nancy Cleaves. The February meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

ITEM ONE: REHABILITATION/REPAIRS – B STREET PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY

Preservation Officer, Jason Lilienthal, introduced the item and presented images to the current state of the structure viewed from multiple angles of the public right-of-way reminding the commission that this item came before them a year ago at the May 6, 2025 meeting.

Mike Northan, from Storey County Public Works, spoke more in detail on the project stating that the County is no longer seeking FEMA money for the project which was too costly according to the approved plans from a year ago. Mr. Northan spoke that the county will foot the bill and presented two options for the repair and restoration of the remaining stone wall that used to be the Masonic Hall which was built circa 1876 and later demolished in 1958.

Discussion was held.

Mercedes de la Garza motioned to approve option 1 for refacing the wall with existing stones on the new wall contrasting the retaining wall and blend with recovered stones at the top near an interpretive sign and a guard rail with the condition that drawings be brought back to the commission at the next meeting for final approval. Nancy Cleaves seconded.

The motion was approved unanimously.

ITEM TWO: REHABILITATION/REPAIRS – TANK HOUSE AT SUTRO TUNNEL

Preservation Officer, Jason Lilienthal, introduced the item and presented images to the current state of the structure viewed from multiple angles.

No applicant/representative from Friends of Sutro Tunnel present.

Discussion held. Questions asked and clarified on the proposed scope of work.

Clay Mitchell motioned to approve as presented.

David Bates seconded.

The motion was approved unanimously.

ITEM THREE: NEW CONSTRUCTION – OBELISK MONUMENT AT 385 HIGH ST, SILVER CITY, NV

Preservation Officer, Jason Lilienthal, introduced the item and presented images from multiple angles to the current site on property where obelisk monument is to be located.

Evangeline Elston from Silver City Preservation Society spoke more in detail on the proposed obelisk monument.

Discussion held. Questions asked and clarified on the proposed scope of work.

Mercedes de la Garza motioned to approve as presented with the recommendation that applicant seek a structural engineer to help with the base.

Calvin Dillon seconded.

The motion was approved unanimously.

ITEM FOUR: NEW CONSTRUCTION – INTERPRETIVE RAILROAD SPIKES IN EIGHT LOCATIONS

Preservation Officer, Jason Lilienthal, introduced the item and presented images from multiple angles as to the look of the interpretive spikes and possible locations for placement.

Eric Brooks from Visit Carson City spoke more in detail on the proposed railroad interpretive spikes as part of the Dust & Wonder Trail. The spikes will feature a QR Code so the public can read more information pertaining to that specific site and its history. Eric Brooks elaborated on the fact that was an award from the Travel Nevada – Division of Tourism for a public art infrastructure. The purpose behind it is to promote tourism in locales such as Virginia City, Gold Hill, and Silver City.

Discussion held. Questions asked and clarified on the proposed scope of work.

Placement at Donovan Mill left out of item for consideration as was 12' spike placement at parking across from V&T Railroad Depot. These to be corrected and brought back for consideration at the September 2026 Comstock Historic District Commission meeting.

Clay Mitchell motioned to approve the concept the installation of sculptures at eight locations listed in the agenda for four-foot sculptures and a ninth location at F Street across from the passenger depot with a twelve-foot statue and to authorize himself and staff to work with the applicant on precise locations to be brought back for final approval at next regularly scheduled meeting.

Mercedes de la Garza seconded.

The motion was approved unanimously.

ITEM FIVE (DISCUSSION ONLY)

Comstock Historic District Commission to discuss donations to support research library. Mercedes de la Garza inquired about an NAPC membership for commission members. Art Krupic, SHPO Administrator, clarified that a membership is possible and will need to inquire further regarding the details.

ITEM SIX (DISCUSSION ONLY)

Comstock Historic District Commission to discuss changes to fee schedule for making copies of

records that are text based and photographs. Chair, Joe Curtis, wants commission members to give some thought to the matter. Clay Mitchell stated not in favor of levying a fees if there is not something specific to spend it on.

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT.

Joe Curtis stated that public comments may be limited to 3 minutes per person at the discretion of the chair for specific agenda items. Comment will not be restricted based on the viewpoint. No action will be taken on any matters raised during the public comment period that are not already on the agenda. All those providing comments are asked to begin by stating their full name for the record. The Chair opened the floor to the public for comment. The Chair opened the floor to the public for comment.

No public comment made.

ADJOURNMENT.

Joe Curtis asked if there was a motion to adjourn. Mercedes de la Garza moved to adjourn. Nancy Cleaves seconded. Adjournment was approved unanimously.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 7:25 pm

Minutes transcribed by Jason Lilienthal from the recording and reviewed by Joe Curtis.