

**New Castle, Colorado
Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
Monday, October 20, 2025, 6:30 PM**

Call to Order

Commission Chair Mari Riddile called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Present Chair Mari Riddile
 Commissioner Richard Parks
 Commissioner Brandy Copeland

Absent Commissioner Ruth Fletcher
 Commissioner Richard Fletcher
 Alternate Commissioner Tom Fuller

Meeting Notice

Professional Assistant to the Town Clerk, Michelle Huster verified that her office gave notice of the meeting in accordance with Resolution TC 2024-1.

Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest.

Citizen Comments on Items NOT on the Agenda

There were no citizen comments.

Agenda Changes

Items for Consideration

Historic Map Presentation with Councilor Grady Hazelton

New Castle Town Councilor Grady Hazelton presented a series of historical maps of New Castle, focusing on Sanborn maps from 1893, 1898, and 1903. Mr. Hazelton said these maps were created for insurance purposes and provided valuable insights into the town's development.

Mr. Hazelton described how he received the first map from Steve Rippy and subsequently found additional maps through the Library of Congress. He detailed his process of analyzing the maps, identifying existing structures, and noting changes in the town's layout over time.

Key points from Hazelton's presentation included: population changes reflected in the maps, showing a decrease from 1800 to 900 people after the first mine explosion and the identification of approximately 80-90 buildings in New Castle that still exist from the 1893-1903 period. Another feature Mr. Hazelton discussed was the straightening of Elk Creek between 1893 and 1898, which was done to accommodate road construction. Mr.

Hazelton said the distinct colors used on the maps to indicate building materials (red for brick, yellow for wooden structures, blue for stone). Mr. Hazelton said he recently discovered an 1888 map of New Castle, which Hazelton plans to have professionally preserved.

Charles Engelbert, New Castle resident, joined the presentation and talked about the gravity-fed water system mentioned in the 1888 map and shared his interest in photographing historical figures in the town. Hazelton and Engelbert expressed their enthusiasm for the project and its potential to preserve and share New Castle's history. They discussed plans to have the original 1888 map evaluated and possibly restored, noting that it might require funding from the Historic Preservation Commission in the future.

Update on the Videography Project

Chair Riddile said she and Vice Chair Ruth Fletcher visited Colorado Mountain College (CMC) on October 15, 2025, to conduct interviews for the videography project. Two interviews were conducted simultaneously in separate rooms. Vice Chair Fletcher interviewed Eric Williams, whose father owned Castle Valley and Chair Riddile interviewed Jim Shrull, who owned the Historical Texaco Building on Main Street.

Chair Riddile said both interviewees were initially nervous but provided valuable information, including suggestions for future interviewees. Chair Riddile informed the commission that CMC had agreed to conduct more interviews next fall, suggesting that the commission would plan for two interviews per year in their budget. She encouraged other commissioners to participate in future interviews, either as interviewers or observers.

The commission briefly discussed potential future interviewees, including the Riddens (Charles and Angela) and the Jolly Brothers.

Consider Resolution HP 2025-2, A Resolution of the New Castle Historic Preservation Commission Approving the Historical Landmark Designation of Highland Cemetery 1009 Clubhouse Drive.

Chair Riddile opened the public hearing at 7:17 p.m.

Public Hearing for Resolution HP 2025-2, concerning the historical landmark designation of Highland Cemetery.

Professional Assistant to the Town Clerk, Michelle Huster, provided an overview of the application process. Professional Assistant Huster said the town owns the property, which required a different approach for the designation. The Town Council had previously given their blessing to move forward with the designation, allowing Town Administrator Dave Reynolds to sign the application.

Professional Assistant Huster guided the commission through the criteria for designation, as outlined in the town code 15.44.160. The commission discussed each criterion, determining that the cemetery met many of the criteria, including its existence for over 50 years, its association with significant events and people in the town's history, and its exemplification of the cultural and historic heritage of New Castle.

The commission also considered the approval criteria, focusing on the cemetery's historical and geographic importance. They agreed that no additional conditions were

necessary for the designation, emphasizing that the intent was not to change anything about the cemetery but to recognize its historical significance.

Professional Assistant Huster presented staff comments, highlighting the cemetery's role as the final resting place for people who shaped the town, its continuation of interring family and friends for multiple generations, and the artistry of the gravestones reflecting various historical periods.

The public hearing was opened for testimony, but no members of the public wished to speak. The hearing was then closed, and the commissioners deliberated on the evidence presented.

Motion: Chair Riddile made a motion to approve Resolution HP 2025-2 designating Highland Cemetery as a historical landmark. Commissioner Parks seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Consider Approval of September 15, 2025, Minutes.

MOTION: Commissioner Parks made a motion to approve the minutes from September 15, 2025. Chair Riddile seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Comments:

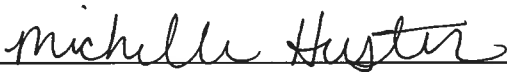
Professional Assistant Huster informed the commission that according to New Castle code, they need to appoint a chair every year, which should have happened in April. Professional Assistant Huster said this item would be on the next meeting's agenda. Professional Assistant Huster mentioned that she would include a budget update at the next meeting to determine what funds remain from the 2025 HPC Budget. The commissioners briefly discussed ideas for displaying the newly approved historical landmark designation for Highland Cemetery. Suggestions included attaching it to an existing monument for miners or creating a new stone structure.

Adjourn

MOTION: Chair Riddile made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Parks seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Professional Assistant to the Town Clerk
Michelle Huster



Mari Riddile, Chair

