

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
Historical Preservation Commission

CHAIR

Bert Verrall

VICE CHAIR

Kevin Toothaker

MSB Staff

Paul Clark

BOARD MEMBERS

Andrew Schweisthal
Karla McBride
Fran Seager-Boss
Janet Kincaid
Vivian Smith



REGULAR MEETING
February 19, 2026

Meeting Packet – Table of Contents

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- 10 = HPC Mat-Su Historic Preservation Contact List

Sutton Library, 11301 N Chickaloon Way, Sutton, AK 99674

Remote Participation: See attached agenda on pg. 1

Planning & Land Use Department – Planning Division

<https://matsu.gov>

<https://matsu.gov/departments/planning>

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
Historical Preservation Commission Agenda

Edna DeVries, Mayor

Bert Verrall - Chair
Andrew Schweisthal
Karla McBride
Kevin Toothaker – Vice Chair
Fran Seager-Boss
Janet Kincaid
Vivian Smith

Paul Clark – Staff



Michael Brown, Borough Manager

PLANNING & LAND USE DEPARTMENT Alex
Strawn, Planning & Land Use Director Jason
Ortiz, Planning & Land Use Deputy Director
Wade Long, Development Services Manager
Fred Wagner, Platting Officer

Sutton Library
11301 N Chickaloon Way
Sutton, AK 99674

February 19, 2026
REGULAR MEETING
6:00 p.m.

IN-PERSON: Sutton Library, 11301 N Chickaloon Way, Sutton, AK 99674

REMOTE PARTICIPATION VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS:

On your computer:

[**Join the meeting now**](#)

Meeting ID: 282 578 667 513 34
Passcode: wK6bg328

Call-In (Audio-only)

[+1 907-290-7880](tel:+19072907880)

Phone conference ID: 416 964 860

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM
- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
 - A. Dec 18, 2025

V. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

"We acknowledge that we are meeting on traditional lands of the Dena'ina and Ahtna Dene people, and we are grateful for their continued stewardship of the land throughout time immemorial."

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*three minutes per person, for items not scheduled for public hearing*)

VII. HISTORICAL SOCIETY/MUSEUM UPDATES

VIII. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

- A. Staff Report
- B. Chair Report
- C. Re-Awakening Lajat - Fran

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Historic Preservation Plan
 - 1. Historic Themes Confirmation
 - 2. Goals/Objectives Confirmation
 - 3. Supplemental Narrative Project
- B. DePriest Family Farm NR Nomination Update
- C. Section 106 Consultations
 - 1. Talkeetna communications tower – SHPO finding of no impact

X. NEW BUSINESS

- A. CLG Grant Cycle – what projects are out there?
- B. America 250 Alaska Celebration
 - 1. Baseball – banners at the State Fair + Week of Dreams
 - 2. What else is going on in the Mat-Su? What do we want to do?
 - a. Mayoral Proclamation
- C. Revisiting the Mat-Su National Heritage Area Concept
- D. Officer Elections for 2026
- E. Create History / Cultural Resource / Historical Preservation Contact List
- F. New Section 106 Consultations
- G. New Borough Project Reviews

XI. MEMBER COMMENTS

XII. ADJOURNMENT

People needing reasonable accommodation to participate in a Historical Preservation Commission Meeting should contact the borough ADA Coordinator at 861-8404 at least one week in advance of the meeting.

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
Historical Preservation Commission Agenda
December 18, 2025
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair called meeting to order at 6:03pm

II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Present

Bert Verrall

Vivian Smith

Fran Seager-Boss

Janet Kincaid

Karla McBride

Kevin Toothaker

Andrew Schweisal (arrived at 6:11)

Quorum confirmed

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Janet Kincaid moved to approve agenda, Kevin Toothaker second, no objection, agenda approved.

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A. February 6

B. April 25

Janet Kincaid moved to approve the minutes, Vivian Smith second, no objection, minutes are approved

V. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

"We acknowledge that we are meeting on traditional lands of the Dena'ina and Ahtna Dene people, and we are grateful for their continued stewardship of the land throughout time immemorial."

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*three minutes per person, for items not scheduled for public hearing*)

Ann Marie DePriest Svedin

VII. HISTORICAL SOCIETY/MUSEUM UPDATES

VIII. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

- A. Staff Report – Paul
 - 1. Historic Preservation Plan Updates & Timeline

- B. DePriest Family Farm NR Nomination Presentation – Katie Walenta

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. DePriest Family Farm NR Nomination Review Discussion

Key feedback included:

- Focus on 1950s – 1960s as period of significance
 - Fewer criteria would be better
 - Since the barn was moved, be sure to note that orientation is the same, same use, same context

- B. Officer Elections for 2026 (if necessary)

- C. Historic Preservation Plan –

- 1. Historic Themes Confirmation & Date Ranges
 - 2. Goals/Objectives/Strategies Confirmation

- HPC will review the draft and set discussion for Feb 19

- D. HPC role/desire in responding to Section 106 consultation opportunities

- 1. Talkeetna communications tower
Often don't get to
 - 2. Alaska Railroad (ARRC Mile 281) Hurricane Operations Support Facility

- Opportunity to connect with local historical society

- E. Scheduling 2026 Meetings (Dates and Locations)

Middle month of the quarter, third Thursday

- Feb 19 – Alpine / Sutton Library
 - May 21 – Knik (Museum)
 - August 6 – Talkeetna (Library)
 - Nov 19 – Palmer (DSJ/Main Borough Building)

X. MEMBER COMMENTS

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Janet Kincaid moved to adjourn the meeting, Bert Verrall seconded, no objection, meeting adjourned at 7:46pm



Outlook

Fwd: Section 106 Notification of SHPO/THPO Concurrence- Email ID #11992448

From bert verrall <brvak@yahoo.com>

Date Thu 1/22/2026 4:39 PM

To Paul Clark <Paul.Clark@matsugov.us>

[EXTERNAL EMAIL - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: towernotifyinfo@fcc.gov

Date: January 22, 2026 at 15:58:10 AKST

To: brvak@yahoo.com

Subject: Section 106 Notification of SHPO/THPO Concurrence- Email ID #11992448

This is to notify you that the Lead SHPO/THPO has concurred with the following filing:

Date of Action: 01/22/2026

Direct Effect: No Historic Properties in Area of Potential Effects (APE)

Visual Effect: No Historic Properties in Area of Potential Effects (APE)

Comment Text: None

File Number: 0011842780

TCNS Number: 304070

Purpose: New Tower Submission Packet

Notification Date: 7AM EST 12/30/2025

Applicant: Atlas Tower Companies

Consultant: Trileaf Corporation

Positive Train Control Filing Subject to Expedited Treatment Under Program Comment: No

Site Name: Talkeetna

Site Address: Talkeetna Spur Road

Detailed Description of Project: Client prop to construct a 125ft self support lattice telecommunications tower w/in prop 50ft x 50ft lease area (LA). Prop 20ft wide access/utility to extend N then E away from LA along existing dirt road, terminating at Talkeetna Spur Rd.

Site Coordinates: 62-11-45.4 N, 150-3-27.7 W

City: Talkeetna

County: MATANUSKA-SUSITNA

State:AK

Lead SHPO/THPO: Alaska DNR, Ofc History & Archeology

NOTICE OF FRAUDULENT USE OF SYSTEM, ABUSE OF PASSWORD AND RELATED MISUSE

Use of the Section 106 system is intended to facilitate consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and may contain information that is confidential, privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure under applicable laws. Any person having access to Section 106 information shall use it only for its intended purpose. Appropriate action will be taken with respect to any misuse of the system.

February 2, 2026

HPF Grant Announcement: FFY25 - Round 1 for CLGs: The Office of History and Archaeology (OHA) is soliciting applications for grants from the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF). Certified Local Governments (CLGs) in Alaska are eligible to apply for these 60-40 matching grants. Applicants must have approved CLG status prior to the next Alaska Historical Commission (AHC) meeting. **OHA has approximately \$174,000 available for FFY25 Round 1. Individual grant awards will range from a minimum federal share of \$10,000 to a maximum federal share of \$50,000.**

Applications are due at 12:00 noon on Friday, March 20, 2026. Evaluation criteria used by OHA staff and AHC is available for review online. *Please use the new grant application portal, Submittable, available at [Office of History and Archaeology Grants](#). (Select How to Apply)* Grant projects awarded with FFY25 funds would end **September 15, 2027.**

The FFY25 CLG priorities for grant funding are:

1. Projects that increase public awareness of historic preservation and establish partnerships—particularly with local tribes and underrepresented groups—to strengthen their local historic preservation program. Projects that result in nominations for new properties to the National Register of Historic Places, including projects that recognize places associated with Alaska Native and underrepresented communities, will be prioritized.
2. Projects that address the rehabilitation of historic properties and leverage funds and resources. Restoring and preserving defining elements of historic properties and addressing their sustainability are encouraged.
3. Projects that update plans, review ordinances, create local register, draft local tax incentives, and determine design review guidelines. The use of a consultant to address local historic preservation issues is encouraged.
4. Projects that address the survey and evaluation of properties. Archaeological projects, projects in urban and rural areas, and cultural and historic sites are encouraged. Projects that record information on traditional Native places and place names as part of a survey projects are encouraged.
5. Projects that encourage historic preservation at the local level by supporting heritage and cultural tourism programs and other preservation efforts that use historic properties to stimulate economic incentives and community revitalization. Priority is given to projects that promote heritage tourism via surveys, inventories, preservation planning, development of historic contexts, national register nominations, education and interpretive materials, and predevelopment/development projects.
6. Historic preservation projects that address the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence (2026) are a priority. The nation's semi-quicentennial is an opportunity for all Alaskans to commemorate and learn how the 49th state has shaped American history. Suggested are projects that emphasize the historic preservation of properties, including National Register nominations, while reflecting the America 250 commemoration theme, The Power of Place.

Eligible Project Types: Survey, inventory, historic preservation planning, National Register nomination, pre-development, development, and public preservation education projects are eligible for program funds. Conformance to state and local plans, ability of the sponsor to complete the project, and significance of the project will be considered.

Final Grant Deadline: by 12:00 noon on Friday, March 20, 2026, through the online grant portal
Submittable Submit

About Office of History & Archeology:

The Office of History and Archaeology (OHA) is Alaska's primary office with knowledge and expertise in historic preservation dedicated to preserving and interpreting Alaska's past and serves as Alaska's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. OHA administers programs authorized by both the [**National Historic Preservation Act of 1966**](#) and the [**Alaska Historic Preservation Act of 1971**](#). The office works with local governments, the public, and educational and not-for-profit organizations to identify, preserve, protect, and interpret the state's cultural, historic, and archaeological resources ensuring that our heritage is passed on to future generations.

Contact:

State of Alaska: DNR
Office of History & Archaeology
Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1310
Anchorage, AK 99501-3561

E-mail: ohagrants@alaska.gov

For questions, please contact the Office of History and Archaeology Grants Administrator, Patty Relay at **907-269-8692** or at the e-mail address above.

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MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

**Recognizing the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America and
Encouraging Participation in the America-250 Essay Competition**

WHEREAS, the year 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America and the signing of the Declaration of Independence, a moment to honor the freedoms and values upon which our nation was built; and

WHEREAS, this historic milestone provides an opportunity to reflect on our shared history, recognize those who shaped our country, and look toward its future; and

WHEREAS, the America-250 Essay Competition invites students across Alaska to engage with our nation's history and consider their role in shaping the next chapter of the American story; and

WHEREAS, educators play a vital role in encouraging student participation and fostering civic awareness and understanding of our democracy.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Edna DeVries, Mayor of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, do hereby recognize the

250th Anniversary of the United States of America

and encourage teachers and students throughout the Mat-Su Borough to participate in the America-250 Essay Competition in preparation for this significant national celebration.

Additional information and resources are available through the America-250 website.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough to be affixed this 6th day of January, 2026.



EDNA DEVRIES, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:



Organization	Phone	Email	Website
Matanuska-Susitna Borough Historical Preservation Commission (HPC)	(907) 861-7801		https://matsu.gov/boards/historical-preservation-commission
Mat-Su Convention and Vistors Bureau	(907) 746-5001	katie@alaskavist.com	Attractions & Events https://www.cityofwasilla.gov/directory.aspx?did=22
City of Wasilla Museum (Dorothy G. Page Museum)	(907) 373-9071		
Palmer Museum of History & Art	(907) 746-7668	director@palermuseum.org	https://palermuseum.org/
Palmer Historical Society / Colony House Museum	(907) 745-1935	ptownhistory@gmail.com	https://palmerhistoricalsociety.org/colonyhouse/
Talkeetna Historical Society Museum	(907) 733-2487		https://www.talkeetnamuseum.org/
Wasilla Knik Historical Society / Knik Museum & Musers Hall of Fame	(907) 376-7755		https://www.wkhsociety.org/
Alpine Historical Society / Alpine Historical Park	(907) 745-7000	info@alpinehistoricalpark.org	https://www.alpinehistoricalpark.org/
Trapper Creek Museum	(907) 841-4005		https://trappercreek.org/activities-2/
Alaska State Parks			
Museum of Alaska Transportation & Industry (MATI)	(907) 376-1211		https://www.museumofalaska.org/
WACO History Committee (Willow Community Center Museum project)			https://www.waco-ak.org/committees/whwf/
Chickaloon Village Traditional Council (CVTC) - Culture & Historic Preservation Dep.	(907) 745-0749		https://www.chickaloon-nsn.gov/
Native Village of Eklutna	(907) 688-6020	nve@eklutna.org	https://eklutna-nsn.gov/ Alaska Knik Tribe Natural Resources Department
Knik Tribe	(907) 373-7991	info@kniktribe.org	
Mat-Su College			
Mat-Su Borough School District			
State Historic Preservation Office / OHA			
Wasilla Library			
Palmer Library			
Borough Libraries - Sutton, Talkeetna, Trapper Creek, Big Lake, Willow			