

New Castle, Colorado
Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
Monday, March 23, 2026, 6:30 PM

Call to Order

Commission Chair Mari Riddile called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

Present	Commissioner Ruth Fletcher Commissioner Richard Fletcher Chair Mari Riddile Commissioner Richard Parks Alternate Commissioner Tom Fuller
Absent	Commissioner Brandy Copeland

Also present at the meeting were Professional Assistant Michelle Huster, and members of the public.

Meeting Notice

Professional Assistant Michelle Huster verified that her office gave notice of the meeting in accordance with Resolution TC 2026-1.

Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest.

Citizen Comments on Items NOT on the Agenda

There were no citizen comments.

Agenda Changes

There were no agenda changes

Items for Consideration

Consider Completing Grant Applications for Historical Surveys

Chair Riddle said Commissioner Ruth Fletcher had been researching grant opportunities and discovered that grants for historical surveys are available throughout the year on a rolling basis, rather than having specific deadlines. Commissioner Ruth Fletcher would apply for funding to conduct additional surveys, potentially focusing on side streets and structures still existing from 1888 Sandborn maps.

Chair Riddle asked if there was anyone at the town who could provide guidance on grant writing. Professional Assistant Huster said she would ask other town staff. Commissioner Ruth Fletcher would contact Lauren with History Colorado, who was helpful with information about the grants and would reach out asking for their assistance.

MOTION: Chair Riddile made a motion to research grant opportunities through History Colorado for additional surveys. Commissioner Parks seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Discuss Highland Cemetery Designation Celebration

The commission discussed speaking about the recent historical designation at Highland

Cemetery on Memorial Day flag ceremony in. Chair Riddle suggested commissions would prepare remarks about the designation process for April 20, 2026 meeting.

Professional Assistant Huster said she would order poppies for the ceremony, as had been done the previous year when the former mayor included them with a related poem reading. Professional Assistant Huster said she would contact Rich Medina from the American Legion.

Commissioner Parks asked if Professional Assistant Huster ordered the historical plaque and she said yes. Discussion included how to mount the plaque, with Staff planning to consult with John Wenzel, who had experience with similar installations. Commissioner Ruth Fletcher noted that she and Commissioner Richard Fletcher had visited Highland cemetery and observed the old entry sign was positioned off to the side among rabbit brush, while the current sign was prominently located at the main entrance. The commission agreed that placing the designation plaque at the more visible current sign location would be preferable.

MOTION: Commissioner Ruth Fletcher made a motion to approve mounting the Historical plaque near the entrance near the new Highland Cemetery sign. Chair Riddle seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Update of Videography Project

Chair Riddle reported that she had contacted Professor Lawson about the videography project, and he confirmed that his students would continue working on the project, indicating they would have material ready for review.

Staff and Chair Riddle discussed the possibility of expanding the project to include interviews with people from families who had relatives who witnessed explosions in the Vulcan mine. Professional Assistant Huster said she would contact Fred Kuerten about his family's recollection of the mine explosion. The commission discussed whether CMC's setup could accommodate multiple interview subjects and agreed to explore this possibility. Chair Riddle said that the past interviewees did not repeat the question on the videography project and that was hard to follow and coaching would be needed. Commissioner Parks offered to participate in conducting future interviews, and the commission agreed that having multiple people involved in the interview process could be beneficial.

Consider Approval of March 23, 2026, Minutes.

MOTION: Chair Riddile made a motion to approve the minutes from February 23, 2026. Commissioner Ruth Fletcher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Comments: Professional Assistant reminded the Commissioners they would elect the Chair and Vice-chair at the May 18, 2025 meeting.

Adjourn

MOTION: Mayor A. Riddile made a motion to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mari Riddile, Chair

Professional Assistant to the Town Clerk
Michelle Huster

DRAFT