

**Historic Preservation Commission
Town of Westport**

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Commission of July 11, 2013

Members present: Ron Bowen, Ray Mejia, Nancy Schlimgen, Martin Timmins, and Dave O'Malley

Members absent: None

Others present: Peter Bloch, Jeanette Hermanson

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

June 6th Minutes

The June minutes were approved on a motion by Ron and second from Ray.

Old Business

Historic Trees- We continued our discussion regarding Ash trees and decided we should focus on identifying significant Ash trees and explore having Bruce Allison conduct an inventory for us. Since these trees are threatened by the Emerald Ash Borer it is important we identify and protect significant trees if possible. Questions were raised regarding how to do an inventory and are there significant Ash trees in the Township. It was noted that Waunakee and Fitchburg have inventoried Ash trees and we could learn from them. Nancy agreed to followup on this and come back with ideas for how to proceed next. We agreed our focus at this time would be on significant ash trees rather than historic trees

Historic Resources Consultant- Ron reported he had spoken with Rebecca and Noah Priebe (sp) of Williamson Surveying has tentatively agreed to do the survey for the Wilcox site. Rebecca will meet with Noah next week and see what it will take to flag out the site. After the site is marked out the committee will look at the site again. The Town is o.k. with getting the survey done and Ron agreed to keep tabs on this.

As an aside it was mentioned that Tom Wilson had written a grant for an intern and was awarded 150 hours of intern work for a project assistant to Chris to compile data on Town Government history regarding significant dates, decisions, elections, etc. We all agreed this was a good project and the intern (Jessica Schrimp) should be invited to our August meeting. Note that Jessica's term is completed on August 12th.

Informal Interviews- We further discussed Judy Borke's proposal and her request for more direction from us. At this point we felt we have no more direction to give and it would be best for Judy to outline her recommendations and we will go from there. Ray noted again that is important the summary incorporate photographs and other visual aids to make it more interesting. All were in agreement on that idea.

Ron mentioned the Plan Commission was excited at the prospect of having a meeting to present the plaques to recognize those families that participated in the historical surveys completed by Rebecca.

We continued discussion on future interview candidates including the Kennedy family and the Jacksons, just need to keep trying to make contact as appropriate. It was also noted there is a tape of Mrs Jackson's husband ?? That would be interesting.

Old Military Road Survey- No news from Bob Birmingham but we will keep on trying. It was noted it would be helpful to tie in with other trail projects like the Town of Middleton. We could explore a connection through Westport if possible. There is a significant Native American history connection in the area and we should include that as well. It was mentioned that Gary Meyer has written a book about Mound Culture that would be a good reference.

New Business

None

Miscellaneous Business

None

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Commission was scheduled for August 8th at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Administration Building.

Adjournment

There being no further business brought before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave O'Malley