

Historic Preservation Committee Town of Westport

Minutes for the November 6, 2014 regular monthly meeting of the Committee

Members present: Peter Bloch, Ron Bowen, Ray Mejia, Nancy Schlimgen
Members absent: Dave O'Malley

Note: in Dave's absence, as Secretary, Nancy submitted these summary notes.
Ray also took notes that may substantiate these with additional details.

Others present:

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

October 2nd minutes were approved.

Old Business

Historic Resources Consultant- Ella Wheeler Wilcox site interpretative site plan options were reviewed by Ray to clarify status of the project and confer on, or narrow preferred committee choices. However, no specific actions were finalized. These were derived with his input from talking with or meeting with consultant Rebecca Bernstein, Town staff and County communications to-date. Larger size signs were favored. A picture review of a possible shelter at the homesite modeled after Jackson's landing was shown by Ron Bowen. This structure could further be designed to feature interpretative signage likely adjacent to the original home site foundation as revealed with previous excavations earlier this year.

In addition, we wondered about the timeline for completion of the County's on-site clay removal and subsequent site grading as it affects preparing the site for a perimeter yet curving path and potentially utilizing the grassy drainage area to cut diagonally across the property to add interest to this walking path, with additional interpretative signage. This swath of 30 feet wide edges a central 10 foot path with prairie planting on either side. The prairie planting could be followed with species known to be native to prairies in the area as shown by the Westport Drumlin State Natural Area in the vicinity. Nancy agreed to check with Dane County Land and Water Resources to check to see if they have budgeted for prairie seed or if the County Park's Department (possibly through Wayne Pauly, Dane County Naturalist) would have collected seed in great enough supply this season that they could offer seed assistance for this project in the coming spring or for a future prairie planting.

Informal Interviews- Nothing new but keep on the agenda for future as time permits.

Old Military Road- Nothing new but still interested in signage on Westport trails that interprets the Historic trail as it coincides with existing or future Westport trails.