

**Historic Preservation Committee
Town of Westport**

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Committee of May 10, 2014

Members present: Peter Bloch, Ron Bowen, Ray Mejia and Dave O'Malley

Members absent: Nancy Schlimgen

Others present: Rebecca Bernstein

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m. (We met on site at the Ella Wheeler Wilcox Homestead site immediately following the archaeological dig)

Old Business

Historic Resources Consultant- Rebecca Bernstein summarized the dig which was conducted by Phil Salkin and his staff. About 20 people turned out and a number of interesting items were found. The eastern foundation corners of the house were located along with many pieces of pottery, glass, nails, farm metal, doll and even a small statue of Jesus. All agreed this was a useful project and a good public event as it involved a lot of hands on interaction. It was also noted the small size of the home provides an interesting perspective in how different things were back then.

We briefly discussed next steps for the site. We had questions regarding what Dane County would do next with the site. What is their plan for the area and will they be blading the site for clay, what is the sequence of activities? It would be helpful to have them mark what will be bladed for clay. It was suggested that we ask Tom Wilson to pursue this with Dane County so we can plan our next steps.

Informal Interviews- No activity on this but keep in mind future interview possibilities.

Old Military Road - We had a brief discussion regarding what to do next with this. Peter was able to have a map done that overlaid the route on a present day map and that is very interesting. Again we discussed the possibilities for trail connections and interpretation. It was agreed we should schedule a field visit to view part of the route and include Terry Enge from the Parks committee.

New Business

None

Miscellaneous Business

None

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee was scheduled for June 5th at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Administration Building.

Adjournment

There being no further business brought before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Dave O'Malley