

**Historic Preservation Commission
Town of Westport**

Minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Commission of October 2, 2014

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

Members absent: Peter Bloch

Others present: Jeanette Hermanson

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the September 11th meeting were unanimously approved.

Old Business

Historic Resources Consultant- Ray reported that Rebecca had emailed regarding the status of quotes for signs at the Wilcox site. She is still working on that. We discussed the size of the signs and all preferred the size larger than what was used for Jackson Landing. Ray and Ron agreed to meet with Rebecca to discuss next steps with the signs and the Wilcox site.

We followed with a discussion on the shelter proposed for the Wilcox site. All agreed the newest shelter by the Willows Tavern at Jackson Landing (16' x12') is larger than what we envision. Ron presented a sketch he completed for a proposed shelter (thanks Ron, nice to have an architect on Board). This shelter would have an open window design with a timber bench, fashioned in a shape and small size to represent the old homestead. We discussed possible siding, metal roof and layout of benches outside of the shelter to accommodate larger group presentations as needed. Ray and Ron will discuss these ideas when they meet with Rebecca within the next week or so.

Discussion continued on the layout for the perimeter trail around the property. We agreed an irregular path curving around the edge would make for a more interesting trail. The trail will follow within a 30' wide corridor and we discussed possibilities for planting of native grasses and forbs within that corridor. Makes sense we pick species of plants representative of that site when the old homestead was there. It was noted we could look at the Holy Wisdom Monastery property and Dane Co. parks for examples and for help and also for seed sources.

Informal Interviews- Nothing new but we noted we should always be on the lookout for interesting candidates for interviews and they don't necessarily have to be older folks. One day we still would like to work with Jim Stephenson and Marmie Jackson for her interview.

Old Military Road – We continued discussion on coordinating with Terry Enge and the Parks Committee on identifying locations where trails cross or follow areas where the Old Military Road existed. We then would followup with simple interpretive signs in these key locations explaining the history and significance of the Old Military Road aka Old Fort Winnebago Trail (some confusion with names). Also noted was the old Indian Trail which followed closer to the north shore of Lake Mendota.

New Business

None

Miscellaneous Business

None

Next Meeting

Did not schedule before adjourning. **Thursday Nov 6th** would be the next regular date unless changed.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,
Dave O'Malley