

**Historic Preservation Committee
Town of Westport**

Minutes of the April 2nd regular monthly meeting of the Committee

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

Members absent: Ray Mejia

Others present: Rebecca Bernstein

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

The March 5th, Minutes were approved.

Old Business

Historic Resources Consultant- We discussed plans for the hiking path and shelter at the Wilcox site with Rebecca. Things are taking shape and Ron noted we may have ten to fifteen thousand dollars to work with for projects at the site. Ron will continue to be our main contact with the Township in keeping things on track. He will set up a meeting with Tom Wilson, Rebecca and Mike Rupiper (Dane Co. Contact for the site) in the next month. Ron shared pictures and a sketch of what the shelter could look like. Rebecca updated us on her work and ideas along with the latest on the site. The clay extraction, grading and seeding apparently has been completed on much of the site but not done on the area we will be working with. Rebecca noted the County needs to hear from us and they are on board with grading and seeding of our area. We are still planning on a 10' wide path in a 30' wide corridor that would be seeded with native grasses etc. Rebecca will email Tom Wilson to followup. It was noted this spring is a good time to seed so we should get things moving and need to figure out where the seed is coming from.

Rebecca discussed the shelter and interpretive signs design. We will have 4-6 signs 18" x 24" in diameter placed along the hiking path that will roughly encircle the property in a meandering path. The signs will include pictures and poems with annotations of famous quotes in bold print. We reviewed four sample panels that would be placed at the site including a 3' x 6' panel at the back of the shelter. It was noted that maps of the area will be important to illustrate the connections/location in relation to the Blue Mounds to Fort Winnebago Trail, the Natural Heritage Land Trust property on Bong Rd, Schumacher Farm and also discuss historic landscapes. Rebecca also mentioned she will be producing a brochure for the site that includes info and poetry included on the interpretive signs. She also suggested with do a grand opening for the site with a noted poet doing readings. All this was very well received.

Informal Interviews- nothing new but keep on agenda and think about new prospects.

Old Military Road (Fort Winnebago Trail)- we are still interested in signage on Westport trails and coordination with the Parks Committee regarding the old trail. Nancy asked if

we could tie in with trails at Carriage Ridge and wondered how the location of the old trail could tie in with current and future Town Trail plans. This will be a work in progress. It was noted that Tom Bunbury will provide funding for signs at the Carriage Ridge Trail area.

New Business

None

Miscellaneous Business

None

Next Meeting

Thursday May 7th

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,
Dave O'Malley