

**TOWN OF WESTPORT
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING**

Kennedy Administration Building
Community Meeting Room
5387 Mary Lake Road
Waunakee, WI 53597

MINUTES - August 11, 2016

Members present: Ron Bowen, Janette Hermanson, Nancy Schlimgen

Members absent: Mimi Bloch, Ray Mejia, Joe Pichette

Public Attendance: Rebecca Berstein, Consulting

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

HPC members approved minutes of July 7th by a voice vote held by Ron, as he led the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Ella Wheeler Wilcox Home Site

Rebecca will invite Darren Marsh, Dane County Park's Director to our September 8th Meeting. HPC hopes to gain a better understanding of what's presently happening on site as a progress report and how future plans are continuing to evolve. Rebecca and Ron briefly reviewed the EWW Homesite sketch, done earlier by Ron, showing interpretative elements with given estimates of locations and dimensions. For example, the homesite foundation wall may be hinted at with raised "lawn" area as one idea, accessing the shelter off to one side. These and other details can potentially be clarified further in our conversations with Darren next meeting. Ron recommends proposing our HPC plan, it then allows others to critique and make appropriate suggestions thus helping to identify possibilities for parking area, loop trails, homesite, shelter and signage (Tom has okayed larger size signs according to Rebecca.)

The Future of the Koltjes Farmstead at the Natural Heritage Land Trust (NHLT) Westport Drumlin Preserve

Janette, Nancy and Rebecca reported on attending the NHLT July 12th input meeting. John

Van Dinter was also present. Preserving the barn by their on site silos seemed unlikely with the expense of it's repair. However, the tobacco (shed) barn and garage were in good shape

and therefore will likely be left on site. The Prairie Enthusiasts representative, Ted Cochrane held similar environmental concerns with inviting younger students to visit the drumlin site with it's potential for adverse impacts to the federally threatened plants, entrusted with their protection. Nancy had shared this concern last meeting with HPC members and noted this in a brief written statement left with Tony Abate working with NHLT, pointing to the need for alternative trails as a possible partial solution to direct more casual users around or away from the remnant prairies. NHLT summarized these evening discussions in a written e-mail sent to those in attendance. Rebecca will meet with Jim Welsh, NHLT Executive Director to further consider any joint use of the original portion of the Koltes house with HPC. Rebecca, suggested HPC member, Nancy attend this meeting or if there is another member that is interested let Rebecca know so as to join in this discussion

Jackson's Landing Signage Update

Ron to contact Dave O'Malley, of the Park's Commission to advocate progress on Peter Bloch Memorial bench and signage. Further update next meeting with HPC input to see this project through to completion, with possible sub-committee efforts if those willing to do so.

Westport Silo Inventory

Ron reported on some "Good News" related to the Holy Wisdom Monastery (HWM) Barn, referring to our HPC Silo Inventory. HWM was backing off the idea of the Amish disassembling their barn and letting nature take its deteriorating course, unless Westport finds a financial plan to preserve this barn (or others like the Koltes Barn), since they do not have the budget for doing so in the future. This gives Rebecca more time to finish the survey she attempted, but weather was not cooperative. Rebecca, as time permits, is going to check with Roger Bindl on the status of combining our Town of Westport interests with his work in summarizing progress with HPC's Silo Survey.

Action Plan for HPC Projects Needs Member Input

Joe's previous comments inspired Rebecca to offer to initiate an *HPC Action Plan* or list of priority projects with tangible subsets that one could *strike off the list* allowing the HPC to move on to the next steps to better focus our direction in completing each project. She plans on emailing this list for commissioner's review at the next meeting to Ray. She hopes HPC members will come to the next meeting with their own ideas to help finish off our *HPC Action Plan!*

Miscellaneous Business

Website Builder Status

Tabled discussion for future meeting to include more members.

Comprehensive Plan Update

Ron being on both the Plan Commission and the HPC offered to see if there is any action or designations for instance in land use for historic significant sites that needs any HPC attention. Ron mentioned that our comments get passed along from Westport to the Village of Waunakee. Rebecca thought that this plan may have guiding principles that act as “umbrella” language.

Forthcoming Events

Schumacher Farm—*Heritage Fest* on September 11th!

NEXT MEETING

The HPC meets regularly on the first Thursday of the month. However, due to the anticipated absence of two members on that date, the meeting was rescheduled to accommodate all.

Next month's meeting will be Thursday, September 8, 2016 at 6:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT

Ron moved to adjourn at around 7pm in unanimous agreement.

Minutes submitted by Nancy Schlimgen