

**TOWN OF WESTPORT  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING**

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

**MINUTES** April 7, 2016 at 6:00p.m.

Members present: Ron Bowen, Nancy Schlimgen, Ray Mejia, Janette Hermanson  
and Joe Pichette

New Member: Mimi Bloch

Public attendance: Rebecca Bernstein, Consulting

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. Mimi, being her first meeting, met other Commission members and then Ray asked her to briefly introduce herself.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ron moved to approve minutes from the February 4, 2016 meeting. Ray seconded the motion and a voice vote of approval was given by all members.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**HPC Meet and Greet: Logistics**

*HPC Meet and Greet* is planned for Saturday April 16 from 10a.m.-12 p.m. at the Town Hall. Janette had a copy of this week's Waunakee Tribune with the event covered in two places.

Rebecca, reported on examples of our HPC Projects being featured on display, invitations and logistics for the event. Coffee and scones will be served amidst themed stations. Rebecca will coordinate with Michelle to provide the coffee and arrange table set-up. Members are asked to arrive around 9:30 a.m. to further assist. At 11a.m. Ray will give an overview of HPC and introduce members, describing projects completed and those we are presently working on.

Joe wanted to convey the message that our HPC's is sensitive about being able to gather knowledge of our local history, while not invading your property. Rebecca reiterated: "Yes, this commission is interested in doing things with Westport owner's permission."

Rebecca mentioned that Tom asked Michelle to announce this event on social media and she also sent some hard copies of the invites. Ron offered to mention this event at the Plan Commission Meeting and to have the *Meet and Greet* Sign, which was also present at the primary election, visible. Rebecca also encouraged all members to "Talk it Up!"

**HPC Meet and Greet: Station Themes** with additional comments as discussed

### **Ella Wheeler Wilcox Home Site**

Event invitations also sent by Tom to County representatives of the site, no responses as of yet. Rebecca hopes at the very least to have their most current site maps displayed. In addition, she has created (1-3) markers or signs, which are at the printers and subsequently will serve as color proofs, available afterwards for editing. Also Phil Salkin will meet with Rebecca to hand over artifacts from the previous spring's HPC- EWW dig event, which can also be on display.

Where to keep artifacts and have them accessible was briefly discussed. Joe noted that *Westport doesn't have an old historical building like Middleton to display collections in.* Rebecca countered with, *local historical societies that do, often have a difficult time with their upkeep.*

### **Silo Survey Information**

(To be displayed with stand). It was suggested and agreed that Nancy will ask the Sisters at Holy Wisdom Monastery if they would be willing to participate in our Silo Survey.

### **Book of Existing Surveys**

An extra sign for our Farm Families that we have previously documented and recognized was proposed by Ron. Include progress on Siberz Architectural Designs Study.

### **Book of Informal Interviews**

Commission members will be ready during the *Meet and Greet* to note personal stories of historical significance or consider possible candidates for future informal interviews.

Mimi, later in the meeting, thought of residents in her neighborhood that had been Olympians or had family ties to them that may be of historical interest to capture with family interviews. She noted, Olympic hockey player, Bobby Sutter's parents. (Also the McCarthy's daughter was on the Olympic rowing team). Along those lines, our discussion opened to more broadly accenting Sports History in Westport as a future project. Janette mentioned the Marquis family and harness racing, if they have not been interviewed already, citing St. Mary of the Lake as likely having more information on these races, since they were held as fund raising events.

### **Volunteer Interest Forms**

Rebecca created this form designed to generate people willing to help on HPC projects, inspire people to share their history of our area or offer fresh ideas for the HPC.

**Koltes Farm Homestead** on Bong Road hosted by Jim Welsh, **Natural Heritage Land Trust** Jim relayed to Rebecca that their consultant did not believe any buildings would be eligible for historic preservation status and the site contained no archeological sites.

### **Other Possible HPC displays:**

#### **Schumacher Farm County Park**

Ron suggested their involvement since HPC has placed a role in its development as an example

of the process of its historic designation. Janette agreed to check with the Schumacher board president on this possibility.

The **Montondon Grave Site** as a former HPC project

The **Welsh House Photos** at Oncken Road/County M before it was recently torn down.

### **Signage at Jackson's Landing as a Peter Bloch Memorial**

Despite signage needs for entry locations at Jackson's Landing, acknowledged by Tom, Ray motioned to approve a *Peter Bloch Memorial Sign* closer to the lake at the "lookout" at Jackson's Landing, reflecting the *Old Indian Trail* and settlement in the vicinity and the work Peter did on researching this while serving on the commission. Joe seconded the idea and took a picture of the Indian Trail Map from the State Historical Society to use as a reference. All present were in favor of the idea, however, Mimi abstained from voting to avoid a conflict of interest, but approves of the idea.

Mimi offered to clarify with the *Waunakee GROW Committee* their intentions for funding a Peter Bloch Memorial sign and/or a bench.

Ron is willing to move this concept forward by further conferring with Tom and coordinating with the Town's Park Committee plans.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

Joe mentioned "Lost Madison" Facebook site as a useful tool to discover historic Madison. Reviewing this site may offer ideas for use as a model for our own website: "Lost Westport."

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The HPC meets regularly on the first Thursday of the month.

**Next month's meeting will be Thursday, May 5, 2016 at 6:00 pm**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7 p.m. by Ray.

**Minutes submitted by Nancy Schlimgen**