

**TOWN OF WESTPORT  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**  
Kennedy Administration Building  
Community Meeting Room  
5387 Mary Lake Road  
Waunakee, WI 53597

**MINUTES** May 5, 2016 at 6:00p.m.

Members present: Ron Bowen, Nancy Schlingen, Ray Mejia, Janette Hermanson  
Joe Pichette, Mimi Bloch

Public attendance: Rebecca Bernstein, Consulting

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ray moved to approve the minutes from April 7, 2016 meeting. Ray asked for a voice vote upon which members agreed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

*HPC Meet and Greet: Event Comments in Review*

Rebecca, was pleased with the community connections that occurred during the event! Representation by Schumacher Farm and the Natural Heritage Land Trust complimented our HPC displays with multiple on-going interactions and conversations.

Ron appreciated Board support especially of Terry Enge and John Van Dinter who were in attendance at the event, with John speaking positively about it at the Plan Commission meeting.

Based on all commission members' presence at the event and their general comments at this meeting, this event appeared to engage a few people in passionately expressing and sharing the history known to them of this area and/or of their families within our community, as the HPC had hoped for in this event. It was noted, we had a substantial turn out, (maybe 20 or so), where not everyone signed in, but for those that did, it will be helpful contact information for the HPC in reconnecting with them for certain present or future research projects or informal interviews. Paraphrasing Rebecca's sentiment: "Chatting creates ripples that may arise from being introduced earlier on."

*Ella Wheeler Wilcox Home Site*

Rebecca did not receive any new site plans from the County to display at the event or subsequently.

Commission members reviewed 3 of the posters: (including 2 new ones) that Rebecca unveiled commemorate the stages in Ella Wheeler Wilcox's life: *Childhood* (Her early years details growing up in Westport and was on display at the Meet and Greet.), *Coming of Age*, and *By the Sea* (One image on this poster needs to be better in focus). Early Married Life or In the City comes before *By the Sea* and after that time-frame the final poster will culminate in her Later, or Sunset Years (Rosicrucian Tradition Influence), which is still being created.

Rebecca is working with Speed Pro in Waunakee that did the kiosk at the Westport Drumlin for the Natural Heritage Land Trust.

Joe suggested increasing the display size to 24"x 36" to increase some of the poem's print size. Ray countered by "Or, include only a portion of the poem" to enable greater ease of reading.

Joe wondered if the displays in the shelter would provide a context from which to interpret these posters, providing history and dates. Rebecca reminded us that the historical marker would be moved to this site which would help tie her poetry to her life stage and this land.

Ron thought that these posters aligned along an arched pathway with one or two posts may be somewhat larger scale than our original plans. Rebecca added to keep in mind that these signs need to be either removable or fire tolerant with the prairie management aims of the wildlife habitat resource proposed for this site. Ray (later) added that a mowed path or signs closer to the shelter may be needed to enable a clear view of the signs. "We need to be flexible with the Town or County in their site maintenance."

Ron asked "What would be incorporated inside the shelter?" Rebecca responded that there would be EWW and Wheeler Family Life (facts) in Westport (Windsor tie not Waunakee), Farming at the time and the Landscape Context of this land.

Ron offered to show these preliminary EWW posters to the Westport Parks Committee.

## **Brief Review of *Meet and Greet* Contacts**

### Informal Interviews

Commission members met these possible candidates for future informal interviews at the *Meet and Greet* amongst others: Bonnie Ziegler Beckwith, with her aunt Marlene Ziegler, and Jeffrey Doerfer-with his Norwegian family ties to Westport.

### HPC Research

Gail Malven, an archeologist and member of the Charly Brown Archaeological Society has an interest in effigy mounds in the area and may be willing to help update such a Town inventory.

## Silo Survey Information

HPC's interest lies in documenting Westport's existing silos and seeks to receive owner permission for their photographs. After supposedly reading our article about our silo survey in the Waunakee Tribune, Roger Bindl has come up with an ambitious project of his own. He, attended the *Meet and Greet* and thereafter reported to Rebecca that he has identified 41 silos with list of addresses using Google Earth, plus has photographs of 16 of them.

Rebecca and the HPC would like to coordinate with Roger on our Silo Survey, so as to avoid property owner confusion, notably on his sending of postcards to those property owners.

While members questioned the inclusion of some silos represented by barn and silo icons on his aerial map, Rebecca wondered about setting priorities or narrowing the focus of documented silos in Westport: If there were significant dates? Dates and Materials? Or Interesting Building Techniques? Ray suggesting setting a style (e. g. ceramic block or concrete stave) or date to determine an historical hierarchy. It was also suggested by Ray to check with Terry Enge to see where his vision of the silo survey goes from here?

Joe pointed out that there exist archived aerial photos from 1937, which would offer a comparison of what silos were there then and what is still standing. He suggested Rebecca offer this idea to Roger if he cares to broaden his focus.

As an aside, Nancy did ask the groundskeeper at Holy Wisdom Monastery about the Sister's permission to be included in a silo, (barn) survey. He said he would check and get back to me. (Right after the meeting) He called and seemed to Ok such a survey. I indicated that Rebecca, our consultant would be doing the research. He suggested doing so in the next few weeks, since, the barn they thought was in disrepair and that given the cost of repair of the barn, which left it in questionable shape with safety concerns to be left standing for too long. Rebecca offered to check into the Jeffers Foundation which has provided grants for barn repair. Joe thought the landscape view of this barn was uniquely situated on this property with a highly visible view, portraying the rural character of Westport that we are trying to preserve.

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

Mimi walked the Jackson's Landing area and noted that it is a wonderful time to walk in a beautiful wetland, but there was no clear signage as to where to park or walk.

In regards to site interpretation and signage Mimi reported speaking with Patty Loew, who referred her to someone who knows more about Ho Chunk Nation history relating to Indian encampments or settlements in Westport. She offered to reach out to this contact.

Joe is also in contact with Jim Stephenson on integrating the history he has of Jackson's Landing.

Mimi clarified with the *Waunakee GROW Committee* their intentions are for funding a Peter Bloch Memorial bench.

Ray will present to Tom our ideas to have a sign and bench closer to the water as a Peter Bloch Memorial.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

### **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

### **NEXT MEETING**

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

**Next month's meeting will be Thursday, June 2, 2016 at 6:00 pm followed by July 7th.**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:15 p.m. by Ray.

**Minutes submitted by Nancy Schlingen**