

**TOWN OF WESTPORT
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING**

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

MINUTES of September 7, 2017

Members present: Mimi Bloch,, Joe Pichette, Nancy Schlimgen
Member absent: Janette Hermanson, Ray Mejia
Public present: Rebecca Bernstein, Historic Resource Consultant

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at approximately 6:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Joe motioned to accept August 3, 2017 minutes. Mimi seconded. Motion approved.

NEW BUSINESS

HPC has refocused their priorities for Rebecca's efforts to deal with the impending development with the Bishop's Bay and Carriage Ridge Developments, including documenting the Bishop's Bay Club house prior to it's renovations and tracing if possible, the preservation of it's artifacts. Therefore, research on Louis Siberz's architecture in the area and the silo survey will be revisited after the deemed more urgent need to proceed before development absolutely limits land access.

The Bishop's Bay development with the help of the Middleton Fire Department, as a training exercise is scheduled to burn down the farm house, whose entry is on the hill across from Governor Nelson State Park, off of county Highway M, this Saturday on the 9th (which has happened). This former farmstead is surrounded by agricultural fields that will be an integral part of *Living at the Prairie* or *at the Farm* anticipated Bishop's Bay Communities. Rebecca has fortunately photographed and documented the farmstead in the landscape context and surveyed the site.

The commission recognizes with approaching development the magnitude of the loss of our agricultural landscape and wide-ranging view sheds in the County Highway M or North side of the Lake Mendota corridor which will leave an irreversible impact on our Westport rural presence and long-term historic farming land: *Once developed, can't get it back!*

In addition, the HPC urges consideration of any pre-settlement, first nation or indigenous people's influences or activities in the area. The commission concurs with the significance of studying this before the chance to do so will not exist in the near future. Joe referred to specifying locations of two Indian Trails that lie within these areas, including the Carriage Ridge Development potentially using Indian Mounds or other landmarks as reference points to these trail.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Mimi has announced that the memorial plaque for Peter Bloch is now mounted at Jackson's Landing. Fading daylight may not facilitate having our next HPC meeting at the site in October, although a dedication of the site by HPC was still of interest since the project is now complete.

NEXT MEETING AND ROTATING AGENDA ITEMS

Mimi has scheduled Jim Stephenson to come to our next HPC meeting to discuss his research he has documented on the history of the Jackson's Family at the Jackson Landing. Mimi mentioned his interest in starting a *Friends of Jackson Landing*, which HPC thought could better be sponsored by the Park's Committee (or jointly with HPC) in his efforts.

Website format for HPC use could be modeled after other communities. Rebecca will look for some websites as examples that display historic content to share with HPC for further feedback.

The Historic Preservation Commission meets the first Thursday of each month, unless otherwise stated at 6 p.m. in the Community Meeting Room of the Town Center.

The next meeting is on October 5th.

FORTHCOMING RELATED EVENTS

Schumacher Farm Heritage Fest September 10th

2017 Local History and Historic Preservation Conference in LaCrosse on October 20-21

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned ~7:30 p.m.