

**TOWN OF WESTPORT
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING**

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

MINUTES of November 2, 2017

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

Member absent: Mimi Bloch

Public present: Rebecca Bernstein, Historic Resource Consultant

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at approximately 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion approved to accept October 5th minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

Westport Silo Update

Rebecca will inventory 3 more silos sites.

HPC Social Media Presence

Ray sees this as a collection point for articles, photos and comments.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Identifying and Prioritizing Properties of Historical Significance in Westport

Joe as an aside to the on-going silo inventory update mentioned the significance of preserving the Breuning Farm entry to Waunakee or Westport (or the Williamson Farm off of Hwy. 113). This led to a discussion of identifying properties and prioritizing them, (varying tiers, e. g. farms, lake homes or viewsheds) as to their historical significance. Joe cited the value in light of the increase pace of recent development or *phase of significant growth* and for potential use in collaborating with future plan commission considerations. Ray likened it to a position paper to have on record in advance. At present, Rebecca stated that Schumacher Farm is likely the only existing site in Westport that is officially considered *locally landmarked* with property records.

Tracing the Old Indian Trail and Native American activities of potential settlements in Westport, seemed to qualify as locally significant. Bob Birmingham's report on the *Blue Mounds to Fort Winnebago Trail* and Williamson's survey were referred to, however present day location questions remain.

To provide clarification of the language of the report, **Ray moved, Nancy seconded with all HPC in favor to request an overlay on a current map of Westport showing the Old Indian Trail, based on the narrative from Bob Birmingham including Indian villages, mounds and other archaeological features.** Rebecca and HPC concurs that Bob Birmingham would be the best expert to follow-up on this project.

Rebecca will also ask Bob Birmingham for more specific location descriptions of Native American early settlements and archaeological features he refers to in his report that are found in Westport. Recognizing in some cases that there may be evidence preserved below the plow level.

Based on visual comparisons of the surveyed area of the Old Indian Trails our present HPC understanding indicates that this follows across the Walsh Property on the corner of Hwy. M and Oncken Road. Ray pointed out that the Native American and history potential for this as an archaeological site may be of greater significance than a recently proposed parking lot or daycare.

The HPC would also be interested in any findings by the archeological report of the nearby T-Wall future development site.

NEXT MEETING and AGENDA ITEMS

Review and discussion of Westport's Historic Preservation Ordinance.

Identifying and Prioritizing Properties of Historical Significance in Westport

Westport Archaeological Report Process.

Possible Spring Speaker Selection for Senior Center Series:

Jennifer Kolb on the *Native American Settlement* (Statz-Hwy 19)

Charles Quagliana and Kurt Straus on *Bringing Back Barns*

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 December 7th

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned ~7:30 p.m.