

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

MINUTES of May 4, 2017

Members present: Mimi Bloch, Joe Pichette, Nancy Schlimgen
Members absent: Ray Mejia and Janette Hermanson
Board Chairman present: Dean Grosskopf
Public present: Rebecca Bernstein, Historic Preservation Consultant

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 6:24 p.m. to insure a quorum representation.
Nancy followed through to lead the discussion of the items on the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mimi motioned to accept April 6, 2017 minutes, Joe seconded the motion.

OLD BUSINESS

HPC Projects Status

Jackson's Landing Peter Bloch Memorial Benches and Signage

Mimi recently walked at Jackson's Landing with Terry Enge, member of the Park's Commission, after one of their meetings, to re-visit the site and survey the best locations for (1-3) Aldo Leopold Bench placement. Tentatively, 2 benches could be placed on the better board walk at lookout places with a memorial plaque on railing or designed smaller to fit on the back of the benches and have another bench separate or just leave it at two. For how to place signs, it was suggested by members to check where this sign is at first with Tom. Joe suggested our continued working with the Park's Commission on this signage. The choice of the more traveled path of the better boardwalk serves to *hallmark* the benches as described by Dean. Mimi offered to check further with Tom as this project nears completion.

Side Notes: One of the Jackson's Landing boardwalks needs repair!
Jim Stevenson may build these Leopold benches for the Town or the Town can purchase them for \$130 from the Aldo Leopold Nature Center.

Revisit HPC priorities

Rebecca offered to update HPC projects and priorities for further HPC discussion. Later in the meeting, Joe mentioned that priority needs to be given for structures that are in eminent threat of removal or development. Mimi mentioned *iconic Barns*. Joe's example is where the house burned on Oncken Road in the area of Oak trees, leaving the barn within a

designated park in the T. Wall development. His idea would be to insure that the barn is restored or adaptively reused like for a community gathering space. In summary, he suggests identifying areas being developed and then if the structures are really nice, try to keep or move them.

HPC Open House April 22nd Review

The question of the timing of our event competing with the onset of nice weather and other Earth Day Events concluded with next year moving the event earlier to March, although not so early as to exclude retirees that may still be away for winter. Rebecca offered to move tickler earlier. Another thought was to have the open house in conjunction with a talk to draw more people.

Those at the event thought it allows for fortuitous networking and creates connections with the commission, other board members, other partners like the Natural Heritage Land Trust and residents.

Mimi along with Ray interviewed Joan McCarthy on videotape that day about her family and her daughters's participation in the Olympics on the US Rowing Team, as longtime residents of Westport.

Mimi complimented Rebecca as did Nancy on her fantastic Ella Wheeler Wilcox (EWW) posters on display. Rebecca has two other proofs that will be created as posters soon to follow. Rebecca mentioned in addition to these posters on display in the shelter there may be a panel with more of Westport's history on it. She is planning on meeting soon with Ron Bowen, Jim Stephenson and Barry from the town to finalize shelter plans and work through the town's budget with Bob.

Westport Silo Inventory Update

Participant letters, according to Rebecca, were sent out and they have received 2-3 contacts thus far. She also is continuing her research into adaptive reuse of silos.

The question of overlap of Roger Bindl's and Rebecca's efforts were mentioned. Rebecca mentioned that she had shared the importance with him of getting landowner permission. She sees Roger's efforts of *telling the story* dovetailing with her documentary efforts. He has other examples of oral histories professionally documented on videotape.

Website Review

Town is working on website updates.

NEXT MEETING

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 **June 1st, 2017**

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

HPC Membership

With Ron's retirement, Joe inquired earlier in the meeting about a vacancy on our HPC since he would like to recommend someone to serve. Dean suggested submitting nominations to the Board, since the Board appoints the commission members.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m. on a motion by Mimi and seconded by Joe, with all in favor.