

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

MINUTES of June 1, 2017

Members present: Mimi Bloch, Janette Hermanson, Ray Mejia, Joe Pichette, Nancy Schlimgen
Public present: Terrance Wall

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Joe motioned to accept May 4, 2017 minutes, Mimi seconded the motion. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Historic Preservation Commission Vacancy

It is noted that we as a commission can submit nominees or interested candidates should let Tom Wilson or the Board of Supervisors know of their interest to join HPC. Subsequently, the Westport Board of Supervisors appoints new members to the HPC.

Community of Bishop's Bay Plat Discussion/ Recommendations

Terrance Wall appeared before HPC to review the Bishop's Bay Plat for Phase 5 within Westport. Ag-theme lots are found North of the Parkway, reflecting farm and orchards, where lots have access to community garden plots with Ag-theme plantings in the median.

On the South side of the parkway, prairie plantings will extend outside the perimeters of grass lawns with other grass trails linked into the prairie unit. An approved prairie seed mix will be available through The Bruce Company.

Joe inquired about managing these prairies for the spread of non-native invasive species? Besides using fire periodically, same as adjacent County lands, a shoe brush could be provided at trailheads to reduce seed transfer Terrance mentioned.

A bike path will be built and "buffer" County Highway M connecting with the tunnel under Highway M and later link up with the other portions of the County bike path yet to come. Mention was made of including a white 3-rail fence along this way.

Silos in the Ag-themed areas were within designated public park areas. The Community of Bishop's Bay offers to maintain the silos, with an easement to care for them. This may mean keeping them safe (removing ladders), repairing and painting metal caps.

Joe didn't know if Rebecca Bernstein, our Historic Preservation Consultant had reached out to Terrance re: HPC development concerns so Joe simply gave an overview that includes a look at the entire plat, preserving the prairie, view sheds, significant hills, landmark trees. Including the

farming history, essentially maintaining the “Character of Westport.”

This brought us to discuss the Oak savanna off of Oncken Road. Terrance referred to its parkland designation including the barn that has a partially repaired roof, and He doesn't know yet if it can be saved. However he noted that if it could, a parking lot could be easily accessed off of Oncken Road and then the barn could be used by the Town of Westport. Terrance would like park funds allocated in the endeavor. Joe said it has potential as a strategic spot for a park shelter. The metal barn Terrance mention may have use as an organic farm distribution facility. A horse stable in this evolving urban area was also an idea for reuse of the barn buildings.

A side note, the Silo off of Balzer Road would be saved within the Masterplan for parkland.

Nancy mentioned a few examples of adaptive reuse of silos.

Mimi asked about seeing these barns. Ray thought that would be a good idea after our HPC vacancy is filled, to have a tour to include our Ella Wheeler Wilcox site and Jackson's Landing, to give everyone a clearer concept of our projects. Terrance offered a contact to Ray to set-up and guide our site visit with instructing us to wear construction boots and hard hats for safety.

Concluding, describing the farm and prairie developments, Terrance stated in keeping with the rural character of Westport, the streets would have rolled curbs and less street lighting. He said the development was designed with the topography and vegetation in mind, with housing developed around the interesting features of the land, noting the vistas of the State Capitol, within public parkland.

Joe thought that the savannas on the site would be worth having a state archaeologist or (?) to survey for Native American artifacts, since the area is in proximity to the lakes, which has a history of local effigy mounds and possibly more recent encampments or ceremonial activity.

OLD BUSINESS

HPC Projects Status: Revisit HPC Priorities

Ray relayed Rebecca's review, via e-mail, updating HPC accomplishments and projects to further prioritize. Discussion to be continued next meeting with HPC and Rebecca present.

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 **July 6th**, 2017

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m. on a motion by Joe and seconded by Ray, with all in favor.