

**TOWN OF WESTPORT
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING**

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

MINUTES of April 6, 2017

Members present: Mimi Bloch, Ray Mejia, Janette Hermanson, Joe Pichette, Nancy Schlimgen
Member retiring: Ron Bowen
Board Member present: Terry Enge
Public present: Rebecca Bernstein, Historic Preservation Consultant

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order shortly after 6 p.m.
(Please note Ray needs updated key)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ray motioned to accept March 2nd minutes, Mimi seconded the motion.

OLD BUSINESS

HPC Open House April 22nd from 10-noon at the Town Center

Rebecca reported on plans for the up-coming Open House. *SpeedPro Signs* are planning to have 3 Ella Wheeler Wilcox (EWW) posters, 2 are proofs, ready for the Open House. Invitations and a Press Release are in the *Waunakee Tribune*. She will follow-up with the County staff to see if they are able to send a representative familiar with the progress at the EWW site. Tony Abate from Natural Heritage Land Trust will be attending. Other community outreach for the event, includes sending an invitation to Roger Bindl, with his efforts identifying locations of Westport silos. Tea and coffee with baked goods will be served. Mimi offered to bring serving trays.

Mid-way through the morning's event or when a number of people arrive, Ray along with Rebecca will introduce other partnering organizations and give them an opportunity to speak.

Ray recommends oral histories or informal interviews be set up to be conducted at a later date.

Future Open Houses could be *Theme* oriented as *Sports* or to include *Recreational Aspects of the Lakes*, for example, (as shared by Members as our meeting was drawing to an end).

Westport Silo Inventory Update

Participant letters, according to Rebecca, are ready to be sent out under Ray's or Tom's name. 4-6 Silo Surveys are done already and could be considered stand-alone features of the inventory.

Terry Enge referred to a few notable silos: one being part of Bishop's Bay uphill on Oncken Road; another one off of Hogan Road and Mill Road (by the sliding hill). He also mentions designating a *Silo Walk* where 3 silos can be seen, including a brown ceramic silo where the old mill was and the one by the Montondon Neighborhood. (These silo locations and descriptions need to be field checked for accuracy).

Ray suggested to engrave metal bronze plaques using the example of previously used *Farm* plaques. These plaques should be *grounded to the launching point (of the walk) to make history links*. Rebecca further suggests that the signage connect with what is known of the family farm: *Part of _____ Family Farm*. This is true especially in areas targeted for future development.

Ray notes ideally the desire for ADA compliant, reader adapted and possibly video compatible signs for display in the future.

Ray thought this could be a joint project of the HPC with the Park's Commission. Joe raised other concerns about the *end game* for our Silo Survey Inventory: *Does the HPC hand this project off to the Park's Commission?*

Rebecca notes that features which have relative importance to the cultural history of our area deserve a higher level of scrutiny. (She poses for example: Bishop's Bay renovations where preserving religious artifacts would be in keeping with this). Drawing more questions about where to preserve historic features or artifacts—in green spaces? Joe adds where public access. Ray describes that fortunately silos have relatively small footprints in our green space parcels. Terry states that this is all part of our Town's *Farmland Preservation* efforts!

Rebecca asks, *Does Farmland Preservation contain tax incentives?*

Joe brought up *adaptive reuse of silos*, with examples of the Elegant Farmer using a former silo as a vestibule or gathering space and the use of a silo as part of the home off of River Road's Riverview Drive. Rebecca cited use of a silo for a spiral staircase. Janette described how former silos are used as little shops at St. Jacob's in Canada. Rebecca offered to further research *adaptive reuse of silos* to offer our Community examples.

Mimi thought the Waunakee/ Westport Land Use Plan which highlights historic buildings and spaces could add a paragraph of encouragement to support approved plans of historic significance and that *according to the Community Plan, such a Board Resolution could put teeth in their statement*.

Website Review

Joe reported that Tom mentioned that the entire Town's website is under review. Our HPC hopes to incorporate interactive designs, for example in noting places of historic interest. This appears to run parallel with the Town's future website plans.

This website may serve to enable the HPC to catalog and compile photos and oral histories, Rebecca remarks which spur HPC discussion. Mimi adds as a future agenda of having a *community-wide effort to obtain historically significant photos of the Town of Westport* to scan.

Joe offers he has a treasure trove of earlier photos from his homesite, which represents in part the heritage of the local landscape. Continuing with, an intern could scan such photos. Janette noted Marcella Pendall, who donated the initial portion of Schumacher Farm, has early scrapbooks that could be scanned. Rebecca noted that this might be perfect for a UW student seeking an *Archive Degree* looking for a thesis project. After the open house, she offered to focus on this and perhaps the Senior Center activities, including as Ray reiterated (earlier in the meeting) of having a speaker from the UW at the Senior Center on the *History of Silos*.

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 **May 4th, 2017**

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.