

**TOWN OF WESTPORT  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING**

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

**MINUTES** of January 4, 2018

Members present: Mimi Bloch, Janette Hermanson, Ray Mejia, Joe Pichette, Nancy Schlinggen  
Public present: None

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Joe seconded by Ray with all in favor to accept November 2nd, 2017 minutes.  
No December Meeting was held.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Review and Discussion of Westport's Historic Preservation Ordinance**

To be addressed at next meeting to include Historic Resource Consultant, Rebecca Bernstein.  
Ray suggested HPC review the ordinance ahead of time and bring their questions.

Mimi questioned monitoring promises made in developing land and designating what impacts HPC could have in future land use decisions. Mimi described two pathways: proactively getting ahead of developers or conveying to our planning members that there ought to be ways to follow through before or in monitoring developers. We have an HPC representative that serves on the Plan Commission. She continues, our HPC voice and support might need to be taken into account. Is it definable? Review: *What are the powers and duties of this Commission?*

Joe responded that the commission could ask for a report (significant trees, ancient architecture, topography and view sheds) to know that a developer or a plan satisfied a condition of approval. While the Town's resources for surveillance may be limited, Ray pointed to the Ordinance Section 10-7-6 sub.(1) where it refers to the HPC role to *Evaluate and comment . . .*

Presently before the Plan Commission as described in the Waunakee Tribune is the land division proposed on Don Harbort's Estate property according to Joe who serves as our liaison on this commission. Ray stated that the HPC has previously obtained Don's oral history and he suggested reviewing the site for historically significant trees as a condition of further approvals.

Also, the Waunakee Tribune Editorial of Dec 28th, 2017 commends the Westport Historic Preservation Commission for some of our accomplishments! Joe wondered if we should issue an article or press release to foster or help serve as a catalyst for Waunakee in officially addressing their local *Historic Preservation* efforts. Ray may write a letter to the editor, noting that we may have joint projects to work on.

## **Identifying and Prioritizing Properties of Historical Significance in Westport.**

### **Westport Archaeological Report**

A packet of some of Bob Birmingham's work was distributed as collated by Rebecca and Town staff of *Westport's Archaeological History*. Ray points out the connection between these topics, since both include a process of protecting features: Mounds, trails, open and green space, cultural or natural, topographical or geographically significant to Westport.

Our April meeting was HPC's first choice for a guided tour with Bob Birmingham of the various archeological sites within the Township as per Rebecca's e-mail suggestion: enabling us to see these features *on the ground rather than just on maps*.

### **Possible Spring Speaker for Senior Center:**

Bob Birmingham presents at Holy Wisdom Monastery on January 24th  
Mimi, Nancy and Rebecca will attend this presentation to see if this would be a good choice for our HPC sponsored spring speaker at the Senior Center.  
Jennifer Kolb on the *Native American Settlement* (Statz-Hwy 19)  
Charles Quagliana and Kurt Straus on *Bringing Back Barns*

Other names added to possible Speaker Selection List:

*Odd History of Wisconsin*, a speaker for Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy (Joe)

*Adaptive Savanna Restoration at Holy Wisdom Monastery with Horses* (Joe)

*Significance of Different Historical Trees* by Bruce Allison or Ray Guries (Joe, Mimi)

Mimi mention having 3 or 4 speaker for 15-20 minutes or conversely having 2 people for 30 minute programs that dovetail with their topics.

It was suggested that Rebecca reach out to possible speakers given her contacts.

Available dates for Senior Center Open House need to be matched with our HPC availability.

## **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

### **NEXT MEETING and AGENDA ITEM**

Westport's Historic Preservation Ordinance Review

Possible Spring Speaker(s) for Senior Center

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 February 1, 2018**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Ray moved to adjourn with Joe seconding that motion with all in favor.

Meeting was adjourned ~7:03 p.m.