

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

**MINUTES** of March 1, 2018

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**

Minutes of February 1st accepted with March monthly meeting date correction to be March 1st.  
Ray moved and it was seconded and approved with voice vote.

**NEW BUSINESS**

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

Ray suggested keeping on the agenda for awhile as we consider our HPC scope of authority.

Reference made to a recent Historic Preservation article in the Wisconsin State Journal, which Rebecca said may refer to a *State level of Historic Preservation*, where owner consent is needed for *landmark designation* and may educate us as to what's in such documents.

Oncken Road Farmstead, given its location within impending farmland development was suggested for HPC to consider as a potential local landmark, even though it may not be the best example of farmsteads evocative of *Sense of Place* in Westport, states Rebecca. Joe will provide a copy of the Master Development Plan for Rebecca as to the intent of the land. In the plan, it is noted that a portion of the land was not tilled for 100 years. When it was built it was a "state of the art" farm, with trees to be preserved. Joe continues where Oak trees are may have not been disturbed and may have been where Indian Trails went through, given their known proximity in this area. Reference was made to Bruce Allison's Westport Tree Study.

Speaking of trees, the *Waunakee School Forest* boundaries were brought up by Ray as to whether or not that they lie in the Town of Westport? It was not thought that they did.

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

Joe noted near Balzer Road and Reynolds Road barns/outbuildings were removed without notice given to HPC. Also recently Dorn Creek retention-like basins were observed re-contouring the landscape off of Oncken Road.

We need a system in place for documentation before such sites disappear. Rebecca offers landmark first! then demolition. Joe states it as having *a system in place for zoning/building permit, with HPC notification as well as any demolition or removal of any buildings/barns or significant landscape modifications.*

Rebecca suggests having an *Inventory with integrity, a Reconnaissance Survey, as a great visual tool. Described as a map with building footprints showing trees and archaeological sites (not for public info but for government planning purposes) with color codes showing historic characters.* However HPC doesn't have its own budget.

### **Westport Archaeological Guided Tour**

Tour will be scheduled on a weekend morning to provide adequate time for Bob Birmingham's Tour May 5th.

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

Bob Birmingham will speak at the Senior Center on June 1st at 2pm. HPC will offer light refreshments as coordinated by Rebecca.

### **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

#### **Ella Wheeler Wilcox (EWW) Park Update**

Rebecca reports final edits of EWW interpretive displays, to include a present day use of her poetry by a rock musician, 100 years later. She will check on the progress and timeline of the Dane County site for future EWW park development this growing season.

#### **Support for Initiating a Waunakee Historic Preservation Committee**

Ray offered to contact Todd Schmidt and Mary Ellen Kearney about initiating a Waunakee HPC.

### **NEXT MEETING and AGENDA ITEMS**

Westport's Historic Preservation Ordinance

Identifying and Prioritizing Properties of Historical Significance in Westport

Guided Tour of Westport's Archaeological Sites with Bob Birmingham

Spring Speaker(s) and Date for Senior Center HPC Event

Future EWW Park Development Update

Support for Initiating a Waunakee Historic Preservation Committee

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 April 5, 2018**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Ray moved to adjourn with members present in favor.

Meeting was adjourned ~7:10 p.m.