

TOWN OF WESTPORT
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

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

MINUTES of June 7, 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 April 5th held for approval. No meeting in May due to *Tour with Bob Birmingham*.

NEW BUSINESS

Identifying and Prioritizing Properties of Historical Significance in Westport

Oncken Road Farm History

Prior to future development, HPC has requested to the Town for (10) hours for our Historical Resource Consultant, Rebecca, to note the history of the Oncken Road Farm. Rebecca reported Tom Wilson approval and as a first step meeting on site with (Scott) a representative from T. Wall Properties and photographing the barns.

Review of Guided Tour of Westport's Archaeological Sites with Bob Birmingham

A portion of Bob Birmingham's Tour speculates as to the location of the Old Indian Trail and how it splits off as the Military Road in Westport based on landscape evidence along with surveyor's maps of our township. Joe thought that retracing these locations that HPC and other town members viewed could serve as a *potential tie to the creation of a Westport History Trail*. The Indian Trail continues toward the lake all the way to Mendota Mental Health State Facility, while the Military Trail was thought to have headed through a portion of the now Dane County Park edge of Holy Wisdom Monastery lands extending through portions of Carriage Ridge Development roughly along woodland Drive.

Synopses of the vistas explored are noted below (In reverse order of our stops):

1. The Indian trail splits off forming the Military Trail as the wooded border of the Benedictine Women of Madison Property reveals potentially a road cut edge on the tree line adjacent to land they have sold to Dane County Parks.
2. Oncken Road Corner off of County Hwy. M. (Former Walsh property now Dane County Land), view that the Indian Trail may have been near drainage swale, through the depression or path of least resistance.
3. Indian Trail-Wagon Trail-GNSP Old Road likely corresponds with pre-1930 layout of County Hwy M.
4. Indian Trail Bank Crossing at the confluence of Dorn and Six Mile Creek within GNSP's entrance from Reynold's Road possibly showing a road cut edge leading to a crossing when Lake Mendota levels were lower prior to Tenney Dam and Locks construction on the opposite side of the Lake.

Tour by Bob Birmingham included access to woods adjacent to the *Turn House on Bishop's Bay Golf Course* where he newly discovered effigy mounds using Lidar technology (on land owned

by the WI Foundation to be included in the future Communities of Bishop's Bay development) included a panther mound and a conical mound with a iconic spirit stone. Within the development scope this area is likely slated for a park intended to preserve these cultural features. HPC recommends that as trails are designed they will not cross over these mounds.

A Panther mound was also viewed off of Borchers's Beach Road within GNSP. At the time a down oak limb that was left on site was removed by four participants at Bob's encouragement out of respect for the Native American culture. At present the panther mound while bisected by the road that for years was kept mowed is now being infiltrated by buckthorn shrubs.

HPC discussed partnering with GNSP to interpret this trail, and potentially concurring on management strategies for the effigy mounds and with Dane County Parks who also edges this trail.

HPC Speaker Series at Senior Center

Spring Speaker report

Bob Birmingham's presentation at the Senior Center June 1st was well attended with roughly 50 in attendance and tracked by the Senior Center Staff. It inspired follow up conversations with HPC members by participants willing to share some of their artifact discoveries or local history and contact information noted for follow up oral histories.

Fall Speaker Selection for Senior Center

In September, October or November Roger Bindl has a movie and a book he has written about Schumacher Farm. Schumacher Farm might also want to bring copies of Marcella Pendall's, (donated the farm to Dane County Parks): *Mamma Papa and Me* for those interested.

Fireside Chat in Jan or February Rebecca suggested bringing Bob Birmingham back to review local artifacts that people are willing to show and tell their discoveries, based on the discussions that were witnessed after his program.

HPC Social Media Presence through Website Development

Rebecca offered to check on the feasibility of a *Senior Thesis Connecting HPC with Social Media* by reaching out to University History Department's Public History Majors offering to help create a HPC Facebook page to encourage local engagement that links with Westports's site.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Joe suggests more efficient communication within the HPC if there was a liaison to Westport's Park Commission for HPC ventures like this for proposed parks and trails as illustrated above. He mentioned this to Tom for consideration: ***Add a member to the HPC who was jointly assigned to the Park's commission.*** HPC members general thought this was a great idea!

NEXT MEETING and AGENDA ITEMS

Identifying and Prioritizing Properties of Historical Significance in Westport
Oncken Road Farm History

Interpreting Westport's Archaeological Sites

History Trail Proposal

HPC Speaker Series for Senior Center

Future EWW Park Development Update

HPC Social Media Presence through Website Development

Senior Thesis Connecting HPC with Social Media Proposal

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.

Note Holiday Change: The next meeting is on July 12, 2018 due to the 4th of July Holiday

ADJOURNMENT

Ray moved to adjourn with members present in favor.

Meeting was adjourned ~7:00 p.m.