

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

MINUTES - October 3, 2019

Members present: Joe Pichette, Janette Hermanson, Michelle Wing, Rosa Ropers,
Public present: Rebecca Bernstein (HPC Consultant)

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. Motion by Janette to approve minutes for August 1st, 2019
Michelle seconded the motion with members present voting in approval.

The HPC welcomed Rosa Ropers for her first meeting as a member of the Westport Historic Preservation Commission.

The HPC welcomed Rebecca Bernstein back to give an introduction to the new members as well as an explanation and review of projects that were started but have not been finished. Rebecca made a presentation for the completion of the Siberz properties including St. Mary Of The Lake Church, his home as well as other homes in Westport. Siberz past and significance in the local history was discussed. After discussion it was decided to wait for the November meeting to decide what action will be taken on the remainder of this project.

Breunig Property Development: Joe discussed with the members of the HPC the proposed development at the Breunig farm on Hwy 19. Joe asked for input from Rebecca regarding her previous site survey. The historic significance of the farm to the community and State of Wisconsin was discussed as well as the site potentially having the first raised milking parlor in the State, developed and planned in the 1940's by the UW Madison. This discussion continued onto the missing survey binders which were later located. Joe mentioned perhaps the farm buildings could somehow be incorporated into a "Rural History" site and compliment what has already been started at Schumacher Farm. Rosa commented that the Schumacher farm focus is earlier than the Breunig site, Joe added it might be interesting to see the progress of dairy farming into the 1940's and 1950's as this site apparently was trying something new with the raise milking parlors. After discussion it was recommended the Westport Plan Commission have the survey documents to review the potential historic significance of the farm, Joe will also make a brief explanation of the previous survey findings at the October Plan Commission meeting.

The commission briefly reviewed the documents provided by Rosa to the Town regarding Ella Wheeler Wilcox. It was decided more time would be needed to thoroughly go thru the contents, which will be done at a later date. The HPC will need to determine what should be done with the contents, for now Rosa took the contents back with her for storage at Schumacher Farm. Rosa will provide the Town with contact information for the person who donated the items for a thank you from the Town for the wonderful donation of these items.

The HPC left the meeting room to look at possible display board area and display cases in the entry to the Town Hall Meeting Room. The HPC would like to use the cases for display of items of local history as well as use some of the framed poster area for display panels. It would be desirable to have a lower long display case to display some artifacts collected in the town. The HPC also reviewed the new Harness racing items gifted to the Town and now on display in the entry area. Janette mentioned the Ella spelling bee trophy already on display in the Town's trophy case, something that should be noted with a display card in the case.

Michelle asked to discuss the Mill Road site and review of the effort by the Westport Parks Committee. Joe was under the understanding Parks and Terry Enge were already working on a sign for the site, Michelle thought it should be discussed the Historic Preservation Commission first. Joe will discuss with Terry and have a direction for the signage and site at the next meeting.

Agenda for November Discussion of nomination of a Secretary for the HPC.

The next meeting of the HPC will be on November 7th 2019.

Janette moved to adjourn, Michelle seconded with all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

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