

HISTORIC SITES PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Friday, November 7, 2008
Administrative Center – Room B390
9:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vicki Twinde-Javner, Harriet Schuppel, H. King Holley, Kent Sween

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Richard Bedessem, Barb Kooiman, Beverly Mach

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: John Thorsen and Robert Dempsey (Bangor VFW Post #8278), Michelle Jensen (IT staff), Cheryl Stephen

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Vicki Twinde-Javner, Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Sween/Schuppel to approve meeting minutes of October 3, 2008. **Motion carried unanimously;** absent: Bedessem, Kooiman, Mach.

UPDATE ON NOMINATIONS / RESOLUTION PROCESS

Iron Overhead Truss Bridge (tabled) – status quo.

VFW Post #8278 (former Hussa Brewery office) – John Thorsen and Robert Dempsey (Bangor VFW Post #8278) were present to give an update on the Bangor proposed TIF District in relation to their building that is included in the proposal. Mr. Thorsen noted the developer (Paul Schams) has offered \$200,000 for the VFW building (former Hussa Brewery Office/designated historic site; plus, he will allow salvage of any items from within the building; the old safe is one item that will be saved. A ballot is being sent to all #8278 VFW Post Members asking of their vote: sell or not sell; the returned ballots will be opened at their November 18th meeting and voted on at that time. If the offer gets turned down, then the building will have to be updated which will be costly. Thorsen will call Vicki following that meeting to relay the decision of the Post. Vicki will also let Barb know as she was pursuing some information from the State Historical Society.

Others – None mentioned.

REVIEW THE COMMISSION'S WEBSITE

Vicki called the County IT Dept. asking if they would assist with setting up a website for the commission; they assigned Michelle Jensen to the project. Vicki and Barb met with Michelle to discuss website options, etc. Michelle was present to review what information the commission would like to include on the website. Suggestions included: commission members and contact info., brochures, archaeology survey, link with other historic agencies (local, state and national), historic site nomination info. (form, sites & photos), preservation grant info. (application & past selected participants), link to commission's agendas and past minutes, link to Chapter 22 ordinance, commission's Annual Reports, etc. Will need to decide URL name. Michelle has other assigned projects that she is working on, but will present a timeline for this particular project – assuming early 2009 to complete. Further review at the December 4th commission meeting.

REVIEW AND CONSIDER REVISIONS TO CHAPTER 22 OF COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES

Vicki noted the purpose for the revisions is to make the ordinance more restrictive. Currently no oversight of the historic nominated buildings as several have already been demolished. Noted the draft

revisions were done by Barb and she may have obtained most of the information from the City of La Crosse. Not sure if same or similar information can be used by La Crosse County. General agreement for Vicki to go ahead and make the changes reflecting La Crosse County; replace Council with County or County Board. The commission has jurisdiction over the township areas (unincorporated areas of the County); discussion on whether the towns require demolition permits – answer unknown. Discussion on penalties for violations and how enforced; and if a fine is sought and paid, where does the money go. Prior to pursuing a final draft, should share the suggested changes with Jeff Bluske, Director of the County Zoning, Planning and Land Information Office; this should be done prior to having Corporation Counsel make the suggested changes. Vicki will go ahead and make some additional changes – those that better reflect the County (not city). Further discussion on the suggested restrictions at the next meeting.

UPDATE ON POSSIBLE NOMINATIONS / NOMINATION PROCESS

Striped School / owner Norman & Phyllis Berg (Kooiman & Twinde-Javner) - Status quo. Vicki noted a box of photocopied historical information on the school is stored in the Board Chair Office.

Oehler Farmstead – owners Swing & Jahnel (Kooiman & Twinde-Javner) - Status quo.

Greenfield Town Hall (Holley) - Status quo.

Mindoro Cut (Kooiman) - Status quo.

Swarthout House (Kooiman) – Status quo.

Lake Neshonoc Dam & Powerhouse/ owner Best Power (Kooiman) - Status quo.

Palmer Lewis Octagon House (Schuppel) – Status quo. Harriet noted that she has not heard back from Errol Kindschy as she turned the nomination form over to him to fill out.

Stone Cellar in Town of Greenfield (Twinde-Javner & Holley) - Status quo.

Onalaska Town Hall (Sween) – Kent noted the Town of Onalaska is pursuing the sharing of the Town of Holland town hall though location is a concern.

Others – None mentioned.

EDUCATIONAL PUBLICATION / WEBSITE

Vicki noted \$1,800 available for this purpose; funds have been carried over for the past couple years in order to complete some sort of printing project. May want to consider a carry over again for 2009.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Same items.

NEXT MEETING

Friday, December 4th at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by King/Schuppel to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried unanimously**; absent: Bedessem, Kooiman, Mach. The meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Disclaimer: The above minutes may be approved, amended or corrected at the next committee meeting.

Cheryl Stephen, Recorder