

Minutes

Mt Lebanon Historic Preservation Board

Monday, January 18, 2017, 5 p.m., Mt Lebanon Municipal Building

ATTENDANCE: Present: Joel Cluskey, chair; Jonathan Hill, Michelle Winowich-Zmijanac, Jim Martin, Anna Siefken, Yvette Yescas, John Bendel, commission liaison; Susan Morgans, staff liaison, Absent: Ben Wetmore.

CALL TO ORDER Chair Joel Cluskey called meeting to order at 5 p.m.

CITIZENS COMMENTS There was no citizen comment.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES The minutes of the November meeting were approved with one correction.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

LIAISON REPORTS

Commission: John Bendel reported that the commission is setting priorities for 2017 and has indicated that historic preservation may be one topic it will focus on, allowing for a better understanding of the related issues.

Historical Society: Michelle Zmijanac said the historical society's annual dinner was a success. She said a group will meet next Wednesday to brainstorm ideas for boosting medallion sales. The society's building is closed for the duration of construction with functions moved to the library. Joel Cluskey said construction is going well and moving toward Phase II, with the basement gutted, asbestos removed, the roof completed the building water tight.

Staff Liaison – Susan Morgans will ask Ian McMeans to come to the next meeting to review proposed changes to the zoning ordinance.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Brick Streets

- *Committee:* Yvette Yescas the brick streets committee (including her, Susan Morgans, Asst. Mgr. Ian McMeans, Public Works

Director Rudy Sukal and Gateway Engineers' Matt Bagley) is devising a proposed policy that includes many of the points in John Bendel's draft. The municipality can handle repairs; reconstruction is the bigger subcontractor/financial challenge. The committee would like historic preservation board to prioritize the brick streets that should be preserved, taking into consideration the PennDOT plan, the streets in the historic district and looking in particular at streets that might need major attention within the next three to five years. The board might want to go out and look at the streets under consideration. GIS has created a map of streets too steep to be reconstructed because of safety issues; those streets will not be considered. Yvette says some public input should be considered when a specific brick street comes up for reconstruction; however, the goal is to avoid the commission having to evaluate each brick street independently. Jonathan Hill suggested that short brick streets that get little traffic might just be left alone, even if in bad shape. Jim Martin met with Dormont's engineer to discuss the options Dormont considered for Potomac Avenue, which recently was rebuilt. Jim recommends that when brick is too expensive, Mt. Lebanon consider using pavers. Yvette and Susan have suggested to the committee that some brick streets are community resources appreciated by people other than the abutting property owners, and the committee did not have a problem with that. The board agreed that its prioritization should be more important than PennDOT's.

- **Trade Institute of Pittsburgh**

Anna Siefken, Yvette Yescas, Jim Martin and John Bendel met with Steve Shelton of the Trade Institute to share information. The institute's main focus is brick laying, not brick streets. This organization might be willing to participate in an apprenticeship/training program in Mt. Lebanon. Shelton also discussed some options for picking up and storing used brick, including donating to Construction Junction, if Mt. Lebanon cannot use or store brick, as the institute considers brick an asset.

Jim Martin said the people from the institute were surprised that Mt. Lebanon's bids for brick come in so high and that Mt.

Lebanon has trouble finding brick. The institute know some small specialty brick contractors who might bid separately on brick streets at a lower cost.

- **Historic Entry Signs**

Neither Jonathan Hill nor Susan Morgans has had any word from the PHMC regarding the board's application for a blue historic marker to be placed in the front yard of the historical society. The application was submitted in December.

NEW BUSINESS

Michelle Zmijanac announced that the Memorial Day ceremony honoring Mt. Lebanon residents who gave their lives in war, will be held at the Veterans Memorial in the morning this year instead of in the evening. This will allow the fire department to participate in uniform before heading to the uptown parade and will not interfere with family activities later in the day.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is Monday, February 20, at 5 p.m. in the municipal building.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.