

Minutes

Mt Lebanon Historic Preservation Board

Monday, September 18, 2017, Mt Lebanon Municipal Building

ATTENDANCE Present: Yvette Yescas, chair; Michelle Winowich-Zmijanac, John Evans, Jim Martin, Jonathan Hill, Susan Morgans, staff liaison **Absent:** Anna Siefken, Joe Bevins, John Bendel, commission liaison

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Yvette Yescas called meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

No citizen comment

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

August minutes were approved unanimously.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Yvette Yescas said former board member and PHMC rep Bill Callahan has alerted us to two Pa. bills that would result in cuts to the Keystone and the Historic Preservation funds. Please contact your state senator and encourage him to preserve funding for historic preservation.

COMMISSION LIAISON REPORT

No report

STAFF LIAISON REPORTS

Susan Morgans reminded the board to make its presence felt, so that is it consulted when appropriate by the commission and other boards on matters concerning historic preservation.

She also reported that the community relations board's Mt. Lebanon Residents Academy will begin January 4 and will have a session that includes the historic preservation board and historical society. She suggested that it might be a good idea to show John Conte's presentation on "What Makes Mt Lebanon Historic?" She will get the schedule to the board as soon as it is finalized.

Historical Society of Mount Lebanon

Michelle Winowich-Zmijanac reminded people that the annual Historical Society dinner/fundraiser is at St. Clair Country Club, Wednesday, October 25. All should receive invitations. Berkshire Hathaway is the main event sponsor and in addition to helping to underwrite the dinner will underwrite historic medallions at a discount to the first 20 qualified homeowners who arrive at the event.

Economic Development Council

No report

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Brick Streets

The board reviewed the municipal street map and Yvette Yescas reported on the continuing effort to enhance the PennDOT mitigation plan and further prioritize streets in the historic district that should be preserved as community resources. Streets with dangerously slope streets have already been eliminated from consideration. The board reiterated that some of the streets might come up on an annual list and be passed over, regardless of condition, because the street is a short, dead-end or low-traffic. Goal is to make a plan, so that when a brick street comes up, the municipality knows what to do, and there is no need to have a conversation with residents of that street.

Jim Martin noted that the biggest opportunity for preserving important brick streets may be to bid brick repair/reconstruction separately. Board members agreed that it seems possible that regular spot repair as opposed to reconstruction might extend the lifespan of a brick street to at least that of an asphalt overlay/reconstruction. Question is where to find a good supplier who can “match” bricks we currently have. John Evans will check to see if his architecture firm has any good contacts for brick.

Public Works Director Rudy Sukal will attend the October meeting and discuss the process we currently use to repair or replace bricks, suppliers, etc. Yvette will send Rudy some questions in advance.

Historic Makers and Signs

A discussion took place regarding identifying a few places where “Welcome to the Mt Lebanon Historic District” signs might be placed. Jonathan Hill also would like to see a single sign (similar to the state marker) that could be placed in a significant spot such as the yard of the historical society. Susan Morgans suggested that it also would be appropriate to simply have signs read “Welcome to Historic Mt. Lebanon” and then have a single sign discussing the significance of the historic district. Susan will look into whether there currently are any Pennsylvania historic markers in Mt. Lebanon.

Design Guidelines

Board continues to look at the Virginia Manor Design Guidelines with the idea of revising them so they might be applicable to other sections or towns and homeowners who wish to remodel sensitively. Yvette mentioned that the Secretary of the Interior’s guidelines might be a good resource. Jonathan mentioned the National Trust for Historic preservation as a resource. John Evans volunteered to start a list of resources.

Notebook Review

No report.

OTHER BUSINESS

Design Consults Susan Morgans said the Design Center of Pittsburgh, which offers volunteer design consults to Mt. Lebanon for \$200, will be promoted as a resource in the next **mtl** magazine.

Welcome Packet Jim Martin suggested there should be something regarding the historic district and historic preservation included in the Welcome Packet. Susan will pursue this.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is Monday, October 16, at 5 p.m. in the municipal building.

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