

Minutes

Mt Lebanon Historic Preservation Board

Monday, November 20, 2017, Mt Lebanon Municipal Building

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The October minutes were approved unanimously.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Brad Byron and Terry Kresmian, both of Lebanon Hills Drive, and Veronica Schmirling of Lynn Haven Drive spoke in favor of the proposed sign for the entrance to the Lebanon Hills subdivision.

TOPIC OF THE MONTH

Lebanon Hills Sign

The Inspection Office has reviewed the sign and found it in compliance and the planning board has recommended it for final approval pending approval by the historic preservation board as required by policy. Michelle Winowich-Zmijanac moved and Jim Martin seconded a motion that the board approve the sign. The sign was approved unanimously and should be on the first Commission meeting agenda in January after the traffic engineer and Pennsylvania One Call take a look at the site, which is standard procedure.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Voluntary Design Guidelines for the Historic District

Yvette Yescas asked for comments on how the Virginia Manor voluntary design guidelines might be broadened into a document that could apply to the entire historic district.

John Evans has experience with this type of project and said it is doable, but it will take at least 120 hours and likely cannot be done by a volunteer. He said the biggest weakness of the Virginia Manor document is lack of illustration. All agreed to request more illustration.

The board agreed that the guidelines should be an educational document that will be a welcome resource for people who want to retain and enhance the values of their houses and neighborhoods. They would like the document to include a table of contents and hyperlinks to additional resources.

Jonathan Hill suggested that the document recommend talking with several contractors, getting recommendations and seeking multiple bids. Susan Morgans clarified that municipal employees or municipal boards are not permitted to make recommendations of contractors, but that the board could provide a resource list of architecture and design books. Anna Siefken said there is a section of such books in place already at Mt. Lebanon Public Library.

Susan Morgans said that when the online guide is complete, it will be important to reach out to the inspection office, real estate agents and other in a position to suggest it as a resource. The board thought it would be a good idea to have a future workshop for contractors who work regularly in Mt. Lebanon. It might be possible to get a grant to do a regional workshop on architecture for contractors and other building professionals similar to one the board did in the past. Yvette will speak to Bill Callahan from the PHMC for advice about this.

Commissioner Bendel said he would ask the commission for a budget amendment of \$5000 for 2018 to proceed with a voluntary design guide for the historic district based on the Virginia Manor document; otherwise the original \$29,000 was wasted. Susan Morgans will talk with Tracy Zinn from TB Planning, who did the Virginia Manor guidelines, as well as Louise Sturgess at Pittsburgh History and Landmarks regarding obtaining a possible consultant or paid intern.

HISTORIC SIGNAGE

Jonathan Hill has not heard back from the sign-maker he contacted. Susan Morgans said Ben Wetmore will spend some time over the holidays sketching out some sign designs and plans to have something for the January meeting. There is no money in the 2018 budget for sign fabrication; 2018 should be a year of planning.

OTHER BUSINESS

Economic Development Council liaison Anna Siefken reported on the EDC's place making activities and work with evolve consultants.

Historical Society Liaison Michelle Winowich Zmijanac reported that the Historical made \$8600 from the annual dinner. She said 60 people have signed up to get houses histories based on a template created by

Pat Calvelo. This could be a nice source of ongoing revenue for the society and also indicates that residents have a great interest in history. Phase II construction of the History Center has begun.

Because of time constraints, all other business was deferred to the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is Monday, December 18, at 5 p.m. in the municipal building.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.