

Minutes

Mt. Lebanon Historic Preservation Board

Monday, March 19, 2018, Mt. Lebanon Municipal Building

Attendance: Present: Yvette Yescas, chair; Joe Bevins, John Evans, Jonathan Hill, Jim Martin, Susan Morgans, staff liaison, Laura Pace Lilley, incoming staff liaison **Absent:** Michelle Winowich Zmijanac, Anna Siefken, John Bendel, commission liaison.

Call to order:

Chair Yvette Yescas called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.

Consideration of minutes:

The February minutes were approved unanimously

Citizens comments:

None

Chair's report:

None. However, Yvette Yescas reminded the board that a new board chair and vice chair will be needed to be selected for the coming year at the April meeting, and the board needs new liaisons to the Historical Society of Mount Lebanon and the economic development council. She asked the board members to let her know if they were interested. Susan Morgans suggested that Yvette might contact Jim Wojcik of the historical society to see if the society was interested in sending a liaison to the historic preservation board.

Staff liaison report:

None

Liaison reports:

None

Continuing Business:

Historic design guide, John Evans: John Evans said the text of the online design guide is final and that Susan Morgans will proofread. The art department in her office will populate the guide with needed images; consultant Nicole Kubas will make some final changes, and everything should be complete by the end of the month. The guide should be ready to go live after that. Susan Morgans reminded Evans to send the link to everyone on the board and said Keith McGill would like the board to do a short presentation on the guide at a Commission discussion session to walk them through the guide before it goes live. Once the guide is complete, the public information office will handle publicity for the guide, so that the entire community will be encouraged to use it. This would include using all the office's communications platforms, as well as outreach such as an HPB volunteer setting up a computer and demonstrating the site to people at First Fridays.

Historic signage, Steve Harroum of APCO Architectural Signs, who presented last month is willing to prepare an estimate based on the number and sorts of signs needed. Susan Morgans suggested the board get several estimates, if possible, and put together a package to present to the Commission during the budget process along with a strong rationale as to why the signs are needed. The Commission can then decide if the project is something they want to fund, and if so whether they can fund it in a single year or would prefer to phase it. We will need to then find out if an RFP is needed.

Brick streets, Yvette Yescas: Jim Martin said next month the sales rep from Lampus Block, who makes brick pavers, would be at the meeting. Lampus has bricks on roads in Aspinwall, Springdale and Edgewood. Belden Block out of Canton also will have a rep there, with cost estimates from other communities. The board could then discuss durability and repair vs. replace with regard to life expectancy of the bricks. Susan Morgans suggested inviting Public Works Director Rudy Sukal and Municipal Engineer Dan Deiseroth. Susan Morgans suggested taking the reps on a tour of Mt. Lebanon brick streets so they could see the neighborhoods. Jim Martin said he would ask the reps. Joe Bevins wanted to hear what alternatives to brick that resemble brick and are durable and aesthetically pleasing might be available. Susan Morgans reminded the board to get any information and pricing if they wish the commission to consider in advance of the 2019 budget process, which begins this summer.

Susan Morgans noted that having information from these businesses regarding the expected lifetime of brick pavers might provide the commission with some of the metrics they have been looking for. However, a discussion followed about the fact that from a historic preservation point of view aesthetics need also to be considered. Brick on a street adds charm, just as brick instead of aluminum siding adds charm. Susan Morgans suggested getting together a group of real estate agents to discuss “charm” and other hard-to-quantify issues as they pertain to housing prices and sales. WE could show them the design guide, talk with them about what new residents are looking for in Mt. Lebanon and hear their opinions as to what sort of people currently are looking for housing here. The public information office could host a small group discussion. Susan will talk with management further about this idea.

Notebook & website review, Joe Bevins: Joe Bevins suggested eliminating some portions of the current large Historic Preservation binder given to members and turning the important parts into a PDF that could be posted on the website, providing more information for the public into what the board does. The older items could go onto an archival page that might be useful to board members, even if not to the public. Joe will revise his suggestions and mail them to the group. Although the municipality is not allowed to recommend specific contractors, Joe suggested that the it could refer people seeking to renovate to national associations of builders, architects, etc., who could provide helpful information. Yvette Yescas suggested the site include questions to ask contractors.

Other business: None

Next meeting: The next meeting is Monday, April 16 at 5 p.m. in the municipal building.

Adjournment: 5:44 p.m.