

Minutes

Mt. Lebanon Historic Preservation Board

Monday, October 15, 2018, Mt. Lebanon Municipal Building

Attendance: Present: Jim Martin, chair; John Evans, vice chair; Joe Bevins, Jonathan Hill, Brendan Kelly, Staff liaison Laura Pace Lilley. **Absent:** John Bendel, commission liaison; Anna Siefken, Yvette Yescas.

Call to order: Chair Jim Martin called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Consideration of minutes:

The September minutes were approved unanimously.

Citizen comments:

None

Chair report: Jim Martin reported that he attended the open house for the Historical Society of Mount Lebanon and encouraged the board to consider attending the Society's annual fundraising dinner later that week. He noted it was a good way to get a discount on a home medallion for contributing structures, sponsored by Berkshire Hathaway.

Commission report:

None

Staff report:

Liaison Laura Pace Lilley reported that the residents of Lebanon Hills unveiled their neighborhood sign on Saturday and that it looks great. She encouraged board members to have a look at it. It has now set the precedent for other neighborhoods to be able to do it in accordance with the new neighborhood sign policy.

Liaison reports:

Jonathan Hill, Historical Society of Mount Lebanon: Jonathan Hill said he would be attending the dinner. Laura Pace Lilley mentioned Susan Morgans would be honored at the dinner for her contributions to the municipality in historic preservation.

Mt. Lebanon Partnership: none

Continuing business:

Historic Signage — Jim Martin: Jim Martin reported that the sign project has three phases: bars on entry signs, entry signs and medallions on top of road signs in the district. He also reported that he met with Rudy Sukal and Keith McGill to get some specs for the signs.

Laura Pace Lilley reported that the board should call the entry signs "Neighborhood signs" going forward, as municipal management has said that is how they prefer to handle those signs. The

neighborhood sign policy has some guidelines the HPB will need to follow in selecting locations, namely they will need to go in traffic islands in neighborhoods.

She asked the municipal GIS department for a map of all traffic islands in the historic district, and she staff if municipal property could be used.

The medallions will be easy to handle and would likely be made of bronze. Public works will be able to store signs so they can be ordered in a price-logical batch.

Rudy Sukal measured the signs for us for placement of the bars on the entry signs. The board also can do medallion add ons to neighborhood signs.

Lilley said the next step is to give sketches to sign companies for ballpark quotes so the board could prioritize the phases. Jim Martin said he thought it would make sense to do the street medallions first. Jonathan Hill asked how many there were and Lilley said about 214, and that we would not be considering putting them on the larger street signs, only the post signs.

John Evans asked about attachment and Lilley said Rudy Sukal said his department would handle that and that the staff would make sure they were done with proper materials that won't corrode.

Jim Martin also said the budget timing was not an issue, that the board could turn in their estimates at any point.

Jonathan Hill said he wanted the board to remember the plaque planned for outside the Historical Society, in lieu of the Historical Marker sign.

Brick Streets – Yvette Yescas: Deferred to next month.

FAQ review: Brendan Kelly — Brendan Kelly said he got input from the board and the contractor questions were ready to go.

Jim Martin asked if the questions should go to a historic contractor to see if he or she had any input. Jonathan Hill said there likely wouldn't be any contractors that would identify themselves specifically as a historic contractor. Joe Bevins said it's mostly subcontractors who claim historic experience.

Laura Pace Lilley said the questions could be linked to the end of the Design Guide and could be linked on the inspections department landing page.

Joe Bevins asked if the board was still offering its expertise to residents. Lilley said yes and that there is a notice on the HPB landing page for people who want help. Lilley said she would also put board contact info on the questions page.

John Evans suggested they remove the request for stamped, sealed drawings because most contractors can't do that. Lilley said she would remove it. Evans also said everything should be written as questions.

Jim Martin thanked Brendan Kelly for working on the project.

New business: Three-year goals: Jim Martin requested a copy of the board's last three-year plan for an update. He asked the board to be thinking about their goals going forward for discussion in November. Martin said one of the initiatives he would like is the historic street signs and a proposed brick streets policy.

Jonathan Hill suggested the board work on getting information out about the Historic District tax credit, perhaps in concert with the Partnership.

Laura Pace Lilley said she would invite Eric to the next meeting.

Jim Martin mentioned the board could do an educational project. Lilley suggested a forum or perhaps office hours to provide consultations.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m. The next meeting is Monday, November 19 at 5 p.m. at 710 Washington Road, Mt. Lebanon.