

Minutes

Mt. Lebanon Historic Preservation Board

Monday, January 21, 2019, Mt. Lebanon Municipal Building

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

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

Citizen comments:

Dr. Phillip Neusius, 1203 Arrowood Drive, an archeologist who taught courses in cultural resource management, introduced himself and said he learned about the board from Mt. Lebanon Magazine and was considering volunteering for it. He also noted he was impressed with the cultural resource study prepared for the Historic District nomination.

Introduction of guest, commercial districts manager Eric Milliron: Mr. Milliron presented the Historic Preservation Board with synopses of the proposed Public Space Improvement plan, an infrastructure plan which will include replacing 33,000 square feet of aging exposed aggregate sidewalk with brushed concrete sidewalks, as well as 75 light poles in the Central Business District, which is within the National Historic District. He explained that the approximate \$1.5 million cost of the project would come from grants and other sources, and would likely begin as a phased project in 2020. Member Jonathan Hill asked what the lights would look like. Mr. Milliron said Gateway Engineers has called for a black pole with a rounded sconce and an LED light. He said the infrastructure should be a blank slate rather than a historical look. Jim Martin asked about completion time and Mr. Milliron said one construction season.

Mr. Milliron also spoke about the Mt. Lebanon Partnership's Placemaking Plan, which includes proposals for public art and signage that includes building labels with the same art deco font as the municipal building. He reiterated that the plan would be adopted in cooperation with a public process including meetings and it will be triaged and implemented the low hanging fruit first, such as redoing the clock tower, signage and LRT portal. Anna Siefken noted she was interested in learning more about the lighting and studying best practices for balancing lighting needs with historic concerns, especially given the City of Pittsburgh replacing its lighting. Jonathan Hill said that public lighting has always been underappreciated and that it is one of the most important things they could do.

Consideration of minutes:

The November minutes were approved unanimously.

Chair report: Jim Martin reported that board member Yvette Yescas submitted her resignation three months before the completion of her term, due to family commitments. Laura Pace Lilley read part of her resignation letter thanking the board and expressing her appreciation. Board members asked that Ms. Yescas receive a certificate of service.

Commission report:

None

Staff report: Laura Pace Lilley noted there would be two vacancies on the board in April and encouraged board members to promote the board to those who would like to volunteer.

Liaison reports:

Historical Society of Mount Lebanon, Jonathan Hill: none

Mt. Lebanon Economic Development Council, Anna Siefken: none

Continuing business:

Historic Signage:

Laura Pace Lilley reported despite several calls, the two remaining local firms who wanted to give ballpark figures for the signs have not turned in any figures. She asked for the board's help in locating other potential firms. Jonathan Hill asked to receive copies of the preliminary drawings.

New business: Three-year goals: Jim Martin passed out the former three-year plan from 2013 and asked board members to think about goals. He noted brick streets and signage should be added to the new plan. Anna Siefken suggested the board convene a governance committee to make sure no institutional knowledge is lost with the departure of Mr. Martin and Ms. Yescas.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m. The next meeting is Monday, February 18 at 5 p.m. at 710 Washington Road, Mt. Lebanon.