

Minutes

Mt. Lebanon Historic Preservation Board

Monday, March 15, 2019, Mt. Lebanon Municipal Building

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

Call to order: Chairman Jim Martin called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Citizen comments: None

Consideration of minutes:

The February minutes were unanimously approved.

Chair report: None

Commission report: None

Staff report: Laura Pace Lilley presented outgoing member Jim Martin with a certificate and thanked him for his service on the Historic Preservation Board.

She also noted that she had recently been appointed as the new Public Information Officer and Editor in Chief of Mt. Lebanon Magazines.

Finally, Lilley reported that PIO office manager Amy Martin had written a lovely story about Restored by the Fords, an HGTV series that films renovations in Pittsburgh starring a sibling couple, at a home on Royce. The show mentions the charm of the historic houses and specifically calls out the brick streets.

Liaison reports:

Mt. Lebanon Economic Development Council, Anna Siefken: None

Historical Society of Mount Lebanon, Jonathan Hill: Jonathan said he wanted to get Society president Mike Cahill to come to a future meeting. Jim Martin said he gave his file to Laura Pace Lilley and it included a copy of the Historic Trolley Tour Script. Anna Siefken said she wanted to explore filming a video with portions of the script, in a moving vehicle, similar to the way college campuses promote tours of their campuses. Jonathan Hill suggested asking author John Conti for his permission before using the script. Siefken said perhaps Conti could be in the video. Siefken said she was looking to watch something like that when she moved to Mt. Lebanon.

Planning Board, Joe Bevins: Joe Bevins said the planning board suggested a conditional use in the Central Business District for first floor, front facing medical or office space, but that the Economic Development Council did not agree with the planning board's decision. Lilley said the matter now goes to the commission. Siefken wanted to know if the Historic Preservation Board weighed in on the decision and Lilley said the board had not. Siefken asked if the board wanted to write a letter in support of the ordinance.

John Evans said the topic was a big part of the conversation at the Partnership's Design Committee meeting. He said he would approach Bill Callahan to see if it would make an impact if the HPB voiced its support.

Jonathan Hill asked what the board's historical interest would be in the ordinance.

John Evans said the downtown was historically built with storefront and that having the same use as it was used historically would keep it more in character. But he added the economic angle would be outside of their purview.

The board briefly discussed the economic impact of such an ordinance.

Evans said the design committee is looking at putting together a structure for the way the public art in the streetscape upgrade will be handled.

Jim Martin asked what the status is of the infrastructure improvements of Washington Road. Lilley mentioned that the infrastructure project is a top-five priority for the commission.

Continuing business

Historic Signage, Jim Martin: Martin said he wanted to get a proposal in front of the commission for historic signs for some combination of the medallion signs, a bar across the entrance signs that says "A Historic Community" and neighborhood signs that identify the historic district.

Martin said the board needs to prioritize how they want the signs to be done. The board looked at a map of the historic district and noted the locations of the current entrance signs, debating which ones might work.

Martin said the board should identify three or four spots (possibly Newburn at Beverly, Standish Boulevard, Millennium Park, Osage at Washington, in the parts of Mt. Lebanon where a sign might be warranted. Lilley said the board could ask for a time to speak on the Commission's May discussion meeting. Siefken asked Martin if he would like to make that presentation even though he will no longer be on the board.

The board also discussed putting a historic district identification sign outside at the Mt. Lebanon History Center.

Brick Streets: John Evans said he is in the process of drafting a letter to the commission stating the board's preference that the municipality follow the PennDOT recommendations before considering paving over brick streets that are rated a 1 or a 2. Martin also said he wanted to reiterate to the municipality that the HPB recommends that brick streets that are to be repaved should be bid as brick and as asphalt.

New business: The board selected John Evans as president, Anna Siefken as vice president, and appointed Joseph Bevins as liaison to the EDC, Jonathan Hill as liaison to the Historical Society, Brendan Kelly to the Planning Board and John Evans to the Partnership Design Committee.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m. The next meeting is Monday, April 15 at 5 p.m. at 710 Washington Road, Mt. Lebanon.