

## Minutes

### **Mt. Lebanon Historic Preservation Board**

Monday, September 16, 2019, Mt. Lebanon Municipal Building

**Attendance: Present:** Anna Siefken, chair (via phone); Alex Ferraro, Jonathan Hill, Philip Neusius, Matthew Moses Staff liaison Laura Pace Lilley. **Absent:** John Bendel, commission liaison; Joe Bevins, Anne Swager

**Call to order:** Board member Jonathan Hill called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Introduction of new members:** New board member Matthew Moses introduced himself. He moved to Mt. Lebanon in 1998, is a corporate lawyer with Babst Calland and lives on Pueblo Drive.

**Election of new vice chair:** Board member Jonathan Hill was unanimously voted vice chair.

**Citizen comments: none**

**Special guest: Mike Cahall, president of the Historical Society of Mount Lebanon:**

Mike Cahall introduced himself and told the board the History Center is in Phase Three of its renovation, with the current work the replacement of gutters and downspouts with copper units. Widows on all sides of the building but the front will be replaced and the front casement windows will be refurbished. He said the current exhibit is about the History Center itself, with an October exhibit to come about Mt. Lebanon's 19 houses of worship, followed by exhibits on quilts, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mt. Lebanon Police Department and an exhibit in 2021 on Washington School on its centennial.

Jonathan Hill said the board was considering installing historic signage at the center and Mike Cahall said he would like to cooperate on that. Hill and Cahall said they would get together to discuss it and other ways to cooperate.

Mike Cahall also said the Society was thinking about some way to formally recognize structures built 100 years ago, with an honorific designation.

Cahall also reported that the Society has sold approximately 300 of the Contributing Structure medallions, and the board has about 250 members. He also mentioned the Society's fundraiser scheduled for October 16.

**Consideration of minutes:**

The August minutes were unanimously approved.

**Administrative Reports**

**Chair report** — None

**Commission report** — None

**Staff report** — None

**Continuing business**

**Historic signage:** Anna Siefken, Alex Ferraro. Anna Siefken said she received a promise of approval for \$25,000 to be used toward the historic signage project and that she and Alex would be working on the Power Point for the September 24 commission meeting.

**Brick streets:** Anna Siefken, Phil Neusius. Anna Siefken recapped work on the brick streets steering committee to date, as well as her meeting with the municipal staff. She said Commissioners Kelly Fraasch, Craig Grella and John Bendel expressed support for \$165,000 to increase the work of the HPB. That breaks into \$65,000 in current funding for brick repair, an additional \$50,000 for more brick repair, \$25,000 for brick storage and \$25,000 for historic signage. She said she was trying to get time with Commissioner Stephen McLean as a courtesy but had not had an opportunity to do that yet. Siefken and Ferraro said they would work on the Power Point during the week.

She said the goal is to figure out what the barriers to the projects are and address them one by one. She identified five tasks, including life cycle costs, street-by-street assessment, communications improvements/community meetings, brick reconstruction/cost reduction and policy review.

Phil Neusius said he was impressed with the work the steering committee had done. Anna Siefken said the volunteers are pulling together data points.

Matthew Moses said he'd be happy to be a part of any of the subcommittees. He suggested getting data from the brick industry associations and brick manufacturers. Siefken said reps from Belden Brick had said they do have the project, but found the bidding process in Mt. Lebanon is not advantageous for brick streets because the streets are bid as a packages.

Siefken also said municipal staff should be trained to do brick repairs, but that the municipality has said there is a bandwidth issue and that hiring contract staff is less expensive than doing the work in house.

Moses asked if the board looked at emphasizing the advantages of permeability. Siefken said the board had, but that it is hard to quantify. She elaborated that storms can move brick work quickly into an emergency category.

Siefken says the brick issue comes down to money and that the issue comes down to what do we want to be? Do we want to be a historic town, or not? She said if there was a more aggressive maintenance plan, the brick repairs wouldn't be such an issue.

**Educational plan:** Tabled until further notice

**Liaison reports:**

**Lebanon Economic Development Council, Joe Bevins:** None. Anna Siefken mentioned the Streetscape Improvement Project and said she attended a meeting of the steering committee.

**Historical Society of Mount Lebanon, Jonathan Hill:** None.

**Planning Board:** None. Alex Ferraro and Matthew Moses to fill going forward

**Mt. Lebanon Partnership Design committee, Joe Bevins:** None

**New Business:** None

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m. The next meeting is Monday, October 21 at 710 Washington Road, Mt. Lebanon.