

Minutes

Mt. Lebanon Historic Preservation Board

Monday, November 18, 2019, Mt. Lebanon Municipal Building

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

Call to order: Board chair Anna Siefken called the meeting to order at 5 p.m.

Citizen comments: none

Consideration of minutes:

The October minutes were unanimously approved with one typo correction.

Administrative Reports

Chair report — None

Commission report — None

Staff report — Staff liaison Laura Lilley reviewed the municipal budget approval process, meeting schedule and dates.

Continuing business

Historic signage: Alex Ferraro reported he had coffee with architect and former Historic Preservation Board member Ben Wetmore, who gave Ferraro a history of the sign project. Wetmore said he would continue to assist with the sign sketches. Ferraro said he did some research about local signage opportunities and that most of the local companies do offer design services, and perhaps prepare the bid specs. Ferraro said once the budget process is complete, they can work on the process for the design and bid process.

Wetmore said that bronze is often more expensive but that aluminum may wear better because bronze develops a patina and requires more upkeep. Siefken said they would take the recommendation of both longevity and maintenance into consideration.

Hill asked if the vendor needed to be local and Lilley said no. Siefken said doing online research may help them to negotiate a better deal. Lilley said the RFP process would be handled by the municipal administration with the contract voted on by the commission.

Brick streets: Anna Siefken said the subcommittees have met since the last HPB meeting in preparation for the December 10 presentation to the commission on the proposed brick streets policy. Siefken reminded the board that the commission would have three new members in January. She also reported that the committees are changing the direction of the policy from one of reconstruction to one that emphasizes preservation and repair.

Phil Neusius reported his committee is working on collecting life cycle costs for brick streets and that the challenge is that each community compiles data differently, so they are working on making the data clear.

Siefken said another committee is working on looking at other communities' brick streets policies. Matthew Moses reported he hasn't found much usable data.

Jonathan Hill asked if the board had heard back from the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation, which had agreed to support the project, but Siefken said scheduling had been difficult.

Liaison reports:

Lebanon Economic Development Council, Joe Bevins: None

Historical Society of Mount Lebanon, Jonathan Hill: Hill reported that the Society's latest exhibit is on Mt. Lebanon's Houses of Worship. He also said he has been speaking with president Mike Cahall about the idea of a bigger sign to be placed in front of the Center as part of the historical sign project. The sign would be an informational sign that would be ideal for people to walk up and read. Hill said he wasn't sure if there would be room on that location. They also discussed the bronze plaque, which would cost \$1,200 and potential places for that sign. Lilley suggested the board cooperate with the Partnership Design Committee to discuss places for the signs within the update of Washington Road.

Hill and Cahall would be meeting again the next week and he invited other board members to attend.

Hill had also asked about Clearview Common as a potential location and Anne Swager reminded the board that the park is a historic location from the days when the trolley turned around there, in the Clearview Loop. Historically, that would make more sense than the History Center, Swager said. Hill also mentioned Beverly Road and Mt. Lebanon Park as a possible location. Siefken said the board should come up with a list of potential places.

Siefken said that prices for signs could dictate which signs are done in what quantities and what order.

Planning Board, Alex Ferraro and Matthew Moses: None.

Mt. Lebanon Partnership Design committee, Joe Bevins: No report. Siefken said she has been attending the steering committee meeting to look at the Uptown renovation, and the group has been thinking about historic preservation and sustainability, among other points for the project.

New Business: None

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:29 p.m. The next meeting is Monday, January 20 at 5 p.m., 710 Washington Road, Mt. Lebanon.