

Minutes

Mt. Lebanon Historic Preservation Board

Monday, July 20, 2020, Mt. Lebanon Municipal Building

Attendance: Present: Matthew Moses, chair; Joe Bevins, Philip Neusius, Marilyn Oberst-Horner, Anne Swager; Commission liaison Mindy Ranney, Staff liaison Laura Pace Lilley. **Absent:** Alex Ferraro, Jonathan Hill.

Call to order: Board member Matthew Moses called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Introduction of new member: Newly appointed member Marilyn Oberst-Horner, who works for State Sen. Pam Iovino and has a background and interest in urban planning and historic preservation, introduced herself to the board. She has lived here since 2000 with her husband and two children. Board members and commission liaison Mindy Ranney followed with their introductions and background.

Citizen comments: none

Consideration of minutes:

The June minutes were approved unanimously with two corrections.

Administrative Reports

Chair report — None

Commission report — Mindy Ranney said the Mt. Lebanon Partnership is looking at putting outdoor dining/picnic tables outside for dining. She followed up with former member Anna Siefken to see if there had been any progress with the brick streets committee. Siefken has proposed using her class at Carnegie Mellon to research life cycle costs for brick streets, and using that data to update the brick streets policy. Ranney reviewed that the HPB has taken the lead in creating a policy to preserve the brick streets in the municipality.

Matthew Moses said the board's requested moratorium on paving brick streets had expired in June and the board should discuss asking for an extension. Ranney said the commission would look to the board to make that request.

Marilyn Oberst-Horner asked if the municipality could consider using a salt-resistant substrate under the brick streets. Ranney said that data would need to be explored as part of the life-cycle cost.

Phil Neusius said the board should remember that the brick streets are contributing factors to the National Historic District and that the municipality has some responsibility to maintain the streets.

Laura Lilley also said the board was charged with coming up with a metric that would separate the streets into two groups: streets that should be preserved and streets that wouldn't be recommended to be preserved.

The board unanimously voted to request the commission extend the moratorium through June 2021. Lilley said she would communicate that request to the commission if the chair would give her general verbiage describing how he would like it to be phrased.

Moses also asked Neusius and Oberst-Horner to talk with Siefken on the current status of the policy research.

Staff report — Staff liaison Laura Lilley told the board if they wanted to have budget allocations for brick street repair in 2021, they should work on that soon. The board unanimously voted to ask staff and commission to consider funding a baseline amount of \$65,000 and an additional expenditure of \$50,000 for brick street repair.

Continuing business

Historic signage: Laura Lilley reported that the RFP for historic sign design services was on the street and due back on July 27. The board members would have packets prepared for them to pick up and study for the next meeting in August. The board would then be expected to make recommendations to the Commission for award of a contract. Swager reminded the board to distribute the RFP to design firms as well.

Three year strategic plan: Matthew Moses said he was reviewing the plan and would have suggestions for the board in the coming weeks.

Liaison reports:

Lebanon Economic Development Council, Joe Bevins: The regular monthly meetings are focusing on the Vibrant Uptown initiative. He is remaining engaged in the process, especially with regard developing historic signage opportunities in high traffic areas.

Historical Society of Mount Lebanon, Jonathan Hill: Laura Lilley said the Society is still contemplating safe ways to open amid the pandemic and that its annual fundraiser would be virtual.

Planning Board, Alex Ferraro and Matthew Moses: Matthew Moses said the board was meeting the following day and he would report next month.

Mt. Lebanon Partnership Design committee, Joe Bevins: Joe Bevins said the Partnership is working on ways to keep the business districts viable amid the pandemic.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m. The next meeting is Monday, August 17, at 5 p.m., on Teams.