

## Minutes

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

Monday, December 1, 2017, Mt Lebanon Municipal Building

**ATTENDANCE** Present: Yvette Yescas, chair; Michelle Winowich Zmijanac, John Evans, Jonathan Hill, Anna Siefken, Jim Martin, Susan Morgans, staff liaison **Absent:** Joe Bevins, John Bendel, commission liaison

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Yvette Yescas called meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

### **CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

The November minutes were approved unanimously.

### **CITIZENS COMMENTS**

There were no citizen comments

### **TOPIC OF THE MONTH**

#### **Voluntary Design Guidelines for the Historic District**

Consultant Nicole Kubas introduced herself and reviewed her credentials as an architect, urban planner and former fellow with UDA. She looks forward to working with John Evans, Yvette Yescas and Susan Morgans on creating voluntary online design guidelines for the National Register District. She has reviewed previous input from the board regarding the project. She will review the *Living with Styles* book and the articles about architecture on the HPB section of the website before beginning the project in January. She plans to base her work on the Virginia Manor guidelines but to include other architectural styles prevalent in the historic district, add information about the National Register designation and illustrate the guide with color photographs and graphics. A good table of contents will be the first step. John Evans will call an organizational meeting for the 6-week project in early January. The board will have a chance to review the guidelines before they go live.

### **HISTORIC SIGNAGE**

Jonathan Hill has discussed the National Register sign with Fast Signs, which said Matthews would have to fabricate the type of sign the board desires. They estimated that a single sign of the sort the board is considering would be in the neighborhood of \$3200. Susan Morgans said that once the board has specified the size, look and wording of the sign and made a case to the Commission for including the funding in

the 2019 budget, the municipality can take handle pricing and production.

The second aspect of the sign project is deciding where several signs (how many to be determined) indicating our National Register Historic District should be placed and what they will look like. Ben Wetmore is preparing some sign designs for the board to consider at the January meeting. Susan Morgans will see if it is possible for GIS to produce a map of where current “Welcome” signs are placed. All agreed that the historic signs may not need to be place exactly at the entry points, unless they are additions to the existing signs. If the signs don’t say “Welcome,” but simply say something such as “Mt. Lebanon National Historic Register District,” they could be placed anywhere.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Staff Liaison:** Susan Morgans shared the resume of an interesting candidate for the board, who plans to attend either the January or February meeting. There will at least one vacancy this coming March.

**Economic Development Council Liaison:** Anna Siefken reported on expected closings and openings on Washington Road. She noted that plans for the improved streetscape are moving forward, but the grant money received will not cover the scope of the original project, so it will need to either be scaled back or funded in some other manner.

**Historical Society Liaison:** Michelle Winowich Zmijanac encouraged people to join or rejoin the historical society for the coming year. She reminded people that historic district plaques for homes are still available and said that construction on the new building is moving along. Jim Martin asked if there were discounts on plaques for society members. Michelle will make that suggestion to the board.

**Upcoming meetings:** Ben Wetmore is expected to attend in January; Jim Martin will invite a colleague who is an expert on brick streets to speak in February, and Yvette Yescas will invite Bill Callahan to make a presentation in March.

## **NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting is Monday, January 15, at 5 p.m. in the municipal building.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.