

Minutes

Mt. Lebanon Historic Preservation Board

Monday, November 19, 2018, Mt. Lebanon Municipal Building

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

Call to order: Chair Jim Martin called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Consideration of minutes:

The October minutes were approved unanimously.

Citizen comments:

Jim Donoghue, 65 Royce, explained that he and other residents on his street were concerned about the condition of his brick street after Columbia Gas had worked on the service line. He said he contacted Commissioner Steve Silverman and left messages for John Bendel to say that the residents wanted assurance that the brick would be replaced after work was completed, rather than permanent asphalt. While he said Mr. Silverman did get back to him to confirm, he wanted to confirm that information.

Mr. Donoghue also said he and the neighbors were concerned because the area that had been dug was backfilled with gravel that was loose and wouldn't keep the bricks from shifting. He was under the impression that the bricks wouldn't be replaced until spring and that asphalt plants were closed and wanted to know if something could be done to ensure the bricks did not move until the repairs were completed in spring.

Laura Pace Lilley said she would address his concerns with staff, including Rudy Sukal and Keith McGill.

Jim Martin confirmed that the utilities doing work must replace "like with like" when it comes to road surface, and in the case of the repaving of Castle Shannon Boulevard, that was asphalted because it was a PennDOT project and road. Mr. Martin also explained that the Historic Preservation Board is also working on a brick streets reconstruction policy to recommend to the commission, but that member Yvette Yescas was working the most intensely on it and she was absent.

Mr. Martin also mentioned the Design Guidelines to Mr. Donoghue something his neighbors may be interested in.

Chair report: Jim Martin reported that he met with HPB member Anna Siefken, who apologized for not attending many meetings in 2018 but said she wished to remain on the board as her schedule would be lightening in January.

Commission report:

None

Staff report: Laura Pace Lilley deferred until Sign Project item later in agenda.

Liaison reports:

Historical Society of Mount Lebanon, Jonathan Hill: Jonathan Hill was absent but Laura Pace Lilley reported the next exhibit, "We Can Do It," which is a traveling exhibit obtained through the Sen. John Heinz History Center would be opening on December 1.

Mt. Lebanon Partnership, Anna Siefken: none

Continuing business:**Historic Signage — Jim Martin:**

Laura Pace Lilley reported that Ben Wetmore was kind enough to do some more detailed drawings, adding some measurements and scales. She said she is currently in conversations with Shamrock and Advance Sign for general ballpark quotes for a three-stage project: medallions on top of street signs in the historic district. Neighborhood signs in the historic district and historic district bars for the existing municipal entry signs. These figures will allow the board to suggest an order for the projects, in cooperation with municipal staff. She reported that APCO said they do not do custom signs so she removed them from the quote list.

Michael Mesick, Mt. Lebanon's GIS coordinator, was kind enough to put together a map of all traffic islands in the historic district. She noted the municipal neighborhood street sign policy requires the signs to be in traffic islands. This will help to visualize the district better as you think about how many of those historic district ID signs you want.

The only sign the board is not talking about just yet is the local historical marker plaque, but that could be easily added at any time.

Brick Streets — Yvette Yescas: Deferred to next month

New business: Three-year goals:

Brendan Kelly said he is interested in working to inform business owners and landlords of the 20 percent tax credit available to them for doing upgrades in the Historic District. Jim Martin assigned the project to Mr. Kelly going forward. Municipal Commercial Districts Manager Eric Milliron will join the meeting in January to help get the project started. Laura Pace Lilley offered the services of the public information office for the project as well.

Joe Bevins said he wanted the board to be more knowledgeable about pending construction projects in the municipality so it could offer guidance or help on any matters of historical importance. Laura Pace Lilley said a good way to stay on top of projects would be for the board to appoint someone to regularly attend planning board meetings and report back to the HPB on any concerns. Mr. Bevins volunteered to be that representative starting in January.

Jim Martin discussed using zoning to help guarantee the continuation of quality in the Historic District. John Evans suggested a review of the code first before suggesting changes, since some of the issues are addressed, especially with infill requirements.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m. The next meeting is Monday, January 21 at 5 p.m. at 710 Washington Road, Mt. Lebanon.