

Minutes
Mt Lebanon Historic Preservation Board
Monday January 20, 2014. 5 p.m.
Mt Lebanon Municipal Building

Attendance: Yvette Yescas, chair; Joel Cluskey, vice-chair, Bill Callahan, Michelle Zmijanac, Jim Martin, Ben Wetmore, John Bendel, commission liaison; Susan Morgans, staff liaison. Absent: Bonnie VanKirk,

Call to Order: Chair Yvette Yescas called meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.

Citizen Comment: Spencer Watts, 831 Rockwood Avenue and a member of Boy Scout Troop 42, introduced himself and indicated he was observing as a requirement for a badge he is working on.

Consideration of Minutes: November 2013 minutes were approved unanimously.

Chair's Report:

—Yvette Yescas reported that the December 5 “trial run” meeting on the National Register with former HPB members and volunteers was well attended and successful.

—She attended former liaison Matt Kluck’s final commissioner meeting, spoke in public comment and presented him with a wood nickel from the municipality’s 50th anniversary celebration

—Yvette did a video blog on historic preservation for the **mtl** website and also wrote an article on the National Register process that will appear in the March **mtl** magazine.

—Yvette has been asked to talk about HPB initiatives to the Community Relations Board in March.

Commission Liaison Report John Bendel introduced himself and talked about the need to preserve neighborhoods and boost economic development in Mt. Lebanon.

Staff Liaison Report: Susan Morgans is working on setting up individual or small group meetings with the various commissioners and Bill Callahan so all have a good understanding of what is involve in creating a local historic district and a HARB as a next step in the board’s long-range plan.

Topic of Month: Evaluation of December 5 meeting and plans for April. All thought the meeting went very well. Board agreed that focus of April 24th meeting should be narrower, focusing strictly on the National Register Nomination, and the sequence of speakers should change. Bill, Joel and Michelle will present again, stressing what National Registers designation is how it applies to Mt. Lebanon and the board’s goal. Board wants people to understand that they are here

as a service to the public, if residents want to preserve their neighborhoods in the future.

Joel Cluskey suggested that the board sponsor a panel discussion in the fall for owners of income-producing properties that may want to take advantage of restoration tax credits offered as a result of the National Register designation. Jim Martin suggested inviting an accountant to participate.

Continuing Business: Finalizing National Register Nomination.

Yvette Yescas has received nine pages of comments on our preliminary nomination from Keith Heinrich of the state preservation bureau. Laura Ricketts knows exactly what she needs to do. The board also has a responsibility to enhance the nomination. Some of the recommendations Keith made are things the state would like to see but are not required by the National Park Service, which bestows the designation. Board will make suggested changes that are possible, given the unfortunate fact that the cultural resource survey database is not usable for this project, as board had hoped. Bill Callahan will discuss this obstacle with Keith and get back to the board. He thinks everything will be fine

Other Business: Comprehensive Plan Follow up

—Yvette Yescas presented a FRESH PowerPoint. Fresh is an easy-to-remember-acronym for footprint, roof, envelope (shape), skin (outer construction), holes (windows, doors, etc.) that is used to promote good design. This is something the board could use to elicit opinion on what neighborhoods would like as design guidelines prior. The board like the idea of an acronym or catch phrase, as most people would not relate to terms such as “fenestration,” however, several members thought FRESH was not the best choice of acronyms.

The board considered applying for matching funds from the PHMC for design guidelines for Virginia Manor. The cost would be \$20,000 to \$25,000 including the match and could be tweaked for other subdivisions. They decided to wait, however, to talk with the Virginia Manor representatives in April and get input from the commission regarding the idea including ways of funding creation of the guidelines.

— Yvette Yescas would like other members to blog. Board will discuss next month.

— Joel Cluskey attended the EDC meeting. He reported that the EDC has chosen to pursue the low-density option for development at the T site Uptown.

— Jim Martin submitted information about Mt. Lebanon to Zillow.

Adjournment and next meeting: The meeting adjourned at 7:45. The next meeting is Monday, February 17, at 5 p.m. in the municipal building.

Walking Tour App: Jim Martin will continue to work on this project and would appreciate help from other members who may be interested.

Magazine Articles: Bill Callahan will write article on HPB involvement with Comp Plan for January. Michelle Zmijanac will write about the history of the board for April

Topic for Next Month: The December 5 special public meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:40. Next meeting is Monday, November 21 at 5 p.m. in the municipal building. The regular December meeting is cancelled.