

Minutes
Mt Lebanon Historic Preservation Board
Monday February 17, 2014. 5 p.m.
Mt Lebanon Municipal Building

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

Call to Order: Chair Yvette Yescas called meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

Citizen Comment: There was no citizen comment.

Consideration of Minutes: January minutes were accepted unanimously with one correction.

Chair's Report:

—Yvette Yescas reported that Laura Ricketts would submit the revised National Register nomination by the end of the month as scheduled.

—Yvette has drafted a letter to Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission certifying that the McMillan House is included in the proposed National Register District. This is intended to help the historical society in obtaining a grant. John Bendel noted that the sale of the McMillan House to the historical society has not yet been finalized, but both sides expect that to happen within perhaps three months.

Commission Liaison Report

John Bendel said that the Commission wants all the boards and authorities to revise their mission statements. Members provided him with input and he will get a draft back to the board. John also asked whether members thought boards should be involved in recruitment process. Yvette Yescas volunteered to work with John on the possibility of a board recruitment night.

Topic of Month: Virginia Manor

The board had a lengthy discussion about how to approach Virginia Manor's expected request for design guidelines at the March 24 meeting. Bill Callahan said all that is required to create a local district with design guidelines is an ordinance. He recommends the any guidelines provide property owners with flexibility and suggest that the Secretary of the Interior's Standards would be the best place to start.

The Virginia Manor residents have been invited to tell the board what sorts of guidelines they would like. They will have 60 minutes and will come prepared. The board will need to emphasize that there is no quick fix; coming up with guidelines is a lengthy process. If the group wishes to discuss a zoning overlay as an alternative, planner Keith McGill will explain what that involves.

John Bendel said that following the meeting with residents, the next step will be for representatives of the historic preservation board to come to a commission discussion session and make a recommendation. He suggested that commission might want to have an idea of how much funding might be required to move forward. (Last month, it was estimated that creating the first historic district would cost \$20,000 to \$25,000 and a matching grant would be a possibility. The initial guidelines could then be used to establish other historic districts as requested.)

Continuing Business:

—In connection with the discussion on design guidelines, Jim Martin reminded the group that he would like to see the municipality establish a “bank,” where historic building materials such as old slate could be held and sold.

—Jim Martin continues to work with Zillow. For field tripping, they need 75 properties. We could use the Lebomag blog for support. Since we are looking for additional bloggers, he will ask Elaine Wertheim.

Other Business:

The board would like to consider working with the historical society of Mt. Lebanon on an exhibition about the National Register nomination.

Topic for Next Month: Virginia Manor

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:50. Next meeting is the special Monday, March 24, meeting on Virginia Manor. The April 24 National Register public outreach session will substitute for the regular April meeting. Presenters will be together informally prior to the meeting to firm up the content.