

Minutes
Mt Lebanon Historic Preservation Board
Monday December 1, 2014. 5 p.m.
Mt Lebanon Municipal Building

Attendance: Yvette Yescas, chair; Joel Cluskey, Michelle Zmijanac, Jim Martin, John Bendel, commission liaison; Susan Morgans, staff liaison; Keith McGill, municipal planner. Absent: Bill Callahan, Anna Siefken, Ben Wetmore

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

Citizen Comment: Dan Gigler, Washington Road, a board member of the Historical Society of Mount Lebanon, reported on events planned to promote the society's capital campaign for renovation of the former McMillan House, which will be its permanent home. Architect Joel Cluskey joined members of the society for a tour of the house with three of the McMillan children who grew up in the house. They provided specific details that should be helpful in the renovation. The planning board expects to approve the site plan at its next meeting, Keith McGill reported.

Consideration of Minutes: The October minutes were approved with one addition.

Chair's Report: Yvette Yescas spoke on behalf of the board at PennDOT's public meeting regarding paving Castle Shannon Boulevard. She and Municipal Manager Steve Feller will be meeting with State Sen. Matt Smith to discuss the project, including mitigation. The board concurred with Yvette that its wishes for mitigation are for PennDot to provide a long-range brick street management program and a preservation easement fund. Brick crosswalks in the historic district also would be nice, but not enough to offset the negative impact on the historic environment. Jim Martin added that he would like to see a plan for retaining the brick for future use.

Continuing Business

National Register:

The board will combine the celebration of Mt. Lebanon's National Register status with the workshop planned to educate income-producing property owners, real estate professionals and other interested parties about its positive impacts. Jim Martin will work with Bill Callahan to choose a date based on the availability of PHMC's Scott Doyle. Michelle Zmijanac, Susan Morgans, Jim Martin and Bill Callahan will try to meet before the January meeting to come up with a plan for the event. They will contact the historical society.

Virginia Manor Historic District:

Yvette presented the draft of the RFP for the consultant. The board revised the sequence of work to be: public outreach, design guidelines, ordinance. Also, the \$25,000 budget will be added to the RFP. Keith McGill said he thought it would be fairly easy to craft an ordinance for Virginia Manor that could be easily adapted for other subdivisions. After meeting with Virginia Manor residents, Yvette will once again revise the draft and get it to Keith, who will add a few suggested changes. He and Susan will see that it is posted on the website and proper procedures are followed prior to it being issues.

Taping of Board Meetings

Commissioner Bendel acknowledged the board's concerns about taping meetings, which were sent to the commission; however, he reiterated that the commission wants to tape most meetings to promote transparency. He invited the board to send him any further comments they would like the commission to consider. The historic preservation board would like to see a written policy regarding which boards are taped and why—why is the historic preservation board to be taped and the library board not, for example.

Adjournment: The next meeting is Monday, January 19, at 5 p.m. in the municipal building. The meeting adjourned at 6:35.