

Minutes

Mt Lebanon Historic Preservation Board

Monday, September 19, 2016, 5 p.m., Mt Lebanon Municipal Building

Attendance: Joel Cluskey, chair, Ben Wetmore, Jonathan Hill, Jim Martin, Amy Martin, administrative assistant **Absent:** Anna Siefken, Michelle Winowich-Zmijanac, Yvette Yescas, John Bendel, commission liaison, Susan Morgans, staff liaison

CALL TO ORDER Chair Joel Cluskey called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

CITIZENS COMMENTS There was no citizen comment.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with one change.

REPORTS

Economic Development Council – Ben Wetmore reported on the board's work in design for Parse Way. They will be soliciting some ideas, not a formal RFP at this point.

Historical Society – Joel Cluskey said the project rebid for Phase One is out. Idea is that work would start in October and conclude January 1.

Staff Liaison Report (given by Amy Martin for Susan Morgans)
Memorandum of understanding has been finalized with developer Erie Sota and the Historical Society for the DePaul Institute property that is scheduled to be demolished to prepare for a senior living complex.

Neighborhood sign ordinance to be discussed by Commission September 26 and by Planning Board September 27. If all goes well ordinance will be passed and it will

Historic Preservation Board should review proposed changes to zoning ordinance; Joel should send an email to Assistant Manager Ian McMeans requesting to review the changes and report back to board.

Holiday House Tour on November 20 in Virginia Manor will benefit Pittsburgh Symphony and showcase architecture.

There will be funding in public works budget for historic entry signs. \$5000 over two years. Good idea for board to continue to study placement, design, etc. in case asked by commission to support request for funding.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Entry Signs

The board discussed the possible design, placement and wording of historic entry signs—probably only three or four—that might be fabricated, if the money is forthcoming from the Commission.

Ben Wetmore suggested that in addition to new signs, the board might conceive a plan that would provide for adding to or substituting new signs throughout town, as old ones need to be replaced.

Jonathan Hill said that in addition to entry signs, there might be other significant areas in Mt. Lebanon that could have historic signs.

Jim Martin will continue to scout out locations and report back to board.

Brick Streets

The report from the PennDOT consultant is finished. There is a brick streets committee that will include Yvette Yescas and Susan Morgans, along with public works and engineering representatives, but it has not met yet.

Blue State Historical Markers

Jonathan Hills says the challenge for getting state marker/markers would be to show in an application how something or things in Mt. Lebanon are historically significant. Perhaps things related to our status as an early automobile suburb would be appropriate. Application needs to be submitted by December 1. Jonathan will try to prepare a short summary based on the National Register Designation for the next meeting. We would need \$2,000 for the sign, if approved. Perhaps contact Bill Callahan.

PHMC Grants

Joel Cluskey has communicated with Bill Callahan regarding what sorts of items might be appropriate for state historic grant funding. Bill says expanding upon design guidelines might be a possibility, provided it could pertain to Mt. Lebanon overall as opposed to just Virginia Manor. Signage rarely considered. There is a possibility of getting money for brick street demonstration project or study. Board agreed that a small grant would do little to help retain brick streets. Board would like to know how other towns maintain and repair brick streets.

Tennis Center Possible Historic Status: Susan Morgans to explain at next meeting.

Block Parties: Board agreed that we cannot respond to requests for block party tours at this time. Jim suggested that we provide the information to the residents that we might provide in person. Someone would need to compile the existing information. Information available is limited and general, not specific to streets or even neighborhoods.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is Monday, October 17 at 5 p.m. in the municipal building.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 6 p.m..