

## Minutes

### **Mt. Lebanon Historic Preservation Board**

Monday, February 18, 2019, Mt. Lebanon Municipal Building

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

**Call to order:** Chairman Jim Martin called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Citizen comments:** None

#### **Consideration of minutes:**

The January minutes were approved unanimously with one correction for a typo on the year.

**Chair report:** Jim Martin said he would be available to help the next chairperson of the board during the transition time and would help with legacy planning. The chair will be selected at the March meeting. He also said the priorities for the next three years are awareness of the Historic District, exploring historic signage and promoting the Design Guidelines.

#### **Commission report:**

None

**Staff report:** Laura Pace Lilley noted the magazine has been including a quiz about the design guidelines each issue and that the magazine is open to other ideas for publicizing the work of the board. She also briefed the board on the status of the proposed change to the Central Business District zoning, that could make first-floor, front-facing offices and medical clinics a conditional use.

Lilley also passed out two estimates for historic signs so board members could begin to prioritize among the sign toppers for street signs, the historic district neighborhood identification signs and the bars across the entry signs.

Lilley said she had two other firms she could contact but John Evans said he had enough information to start prioritizing the projects. Jim Martin said the signs could be phased over several years as budget permits. Lilley also said they could consider scaling down the number and putting them in more visible spots. She noted public works would be able to do the installation.

John Evans asked for a copy of the map that includes the traffic islands. Lilley said she had a hard copy.

#### **Liaison reports:**

**Mt. Lebanon Economic Development Council, Anna Siefken:** none

**Historical Society of Mount Lebanon, Jonathan Hill:** Hill noted that Mike Cahill is taking over as president of the Historical Society and that the group finished its successful exhibit on WWII. The next exhibit will focus on the house itself. Jonathan Hill asked if we could provide a poster about the Design Guidelines to post in the center during the exhibit. Hill also noted the Society has more renovation that can be done in the building, including finishing the basement. Jim Martin suggested Mr. Cahill could be invited to speak to the HPB at a future meeting.

**Planning Board, Joe Bevins:** Joe reported he would be attending the February planning board meeting and would report on it in March.

### **Continuing business**

**Historic Signage, Jim Martin:** Jim Martin said he was looking for some more sign companies to get estimates. John Evans asked the board to think about what they'd want to do first. Jim Martin said he would want the entrance signs done first. John Evans said they should consider picking the most visible signs, focusing on Uptown and Beverly Shops. Joe Evans agreed. John Evans asked what would be the three most visible entry signs. Cochran, Beverly, Castle Shannon Boulevard and Washington Road came up first. John Evans said he would be interested in doing a more interpretive mini-exhibit at the Historical District with a map and historic photos. Joe Bevins said it would be one of the first signs he would do. Jim Martin mentioned the ones at Gettysburg as a good idea. Jonathan Hill said it would be a lot of graphic design. Lilley said the PIO has designers on staff who could do that work.

**Brick Streets:** John Evans said he would like to be on that committee since he has been with that project all along. He said the board's proposal had been to use the report to guide the replacement. Jim Martin asked Lilley to check about any streets that had been suggested for paving. John Evans said condition should be used to determine whether it stays brick or not. It would be used for priority/sequencing. That was a disagreement that the board had with the PennDOT report. Jim Martin also said the brick streets would be bid out for both pavement and brick, based on the size of the repair needed. Lilley said the board could request that it be notified if brick streets were going to be paved over.

**Three-year goals:** Jim Martin says the board should consider working on Awareness of the Historic District, Brick Streets and Design Guides promotion.

Resident and attendee Dr. Phillip Neusius, 1203 Arrowood Drive, said that if the streets were specified as contributing features to the Historic District and paid for with federal funds, they would be protected. John Evans said he did not believe the streets were listed as contributing. The only official thing that was listed as contributing were structures.

Jim Martin asked if the board wanted to proceed with an ordinance. The rest of the board did not agree.

**Governance committee/transition plan:** This was added to the agenda by request of Anna Siefken at last month's meeting but the board decided they did not need to do anything formal.

**New business:** None

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m. The next meeting is Monday, March 18 at 5 p.m. at 710 Washington Road, Mt. Lebanon.