

Minutes

Mt. Lebanon Historic Preservation Board

Monday, October 21, 2019, Mt. Lebanon Municipal Building

Attendance: Present: Anna Siefken, chair; Joe Bevins, Alex Ferraro, Jonathan Hill, Philip Neusius, Matthew Moses, Anne Swager; Staff liaison Laura Pace Lilley. **Absent:** John Bendel, commission liaison

Call to order: Board chair Anna Siefken called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Introduction of new members: Matthew Moses and Anne Swager introduced themselves, then the rest of the board introduced themselves.

Citizen comments: none

Consideration of minutes:

The September minutes were unanimously approved.

Administrative Reports

Chair report — None

Commission report — None

Staff report — Staff liaison Laura Lilley reported that the commission has dropped consideration of a plan to limit offices and medical facilities in the Central Business District because the commission and the Mt. Lebanon Partnership did not agree on the best way to do that.

Continuing business

Historic signage: Anna Siefken told the board she presented to the commission the plan for the four types of potential signs: bars across entry signs, neighborhood identification signs, medallions on top of road signs and placemaking signage outside the Historical Society of Mount Lebanon. She asked the board for \$25,000 in the 2020 budget to put toward the sign project.

The next step is having someone work to find a designer, to figure out what the verbiage would say and to actually get a set of estimates. Alex Ferraro is currently working on that. She noted to commissioners it was not the total sign package; it was to get the project started.

She called for volunteers to help with the project, and Jonathan Hill and Alex Ferraro spoke up. Siefken said the board could choose any of the signs first once she gets the estimates and design costs.

Laura Lilley said Ben Wetmore agreed to work with the eventual designer on the sketches he started.

Jonathan Hill talked about the sign proposed for near the Historical Society of Mount Lebanon and said he would work with the society. Siefken said they would need to work on the verbiage for all the signs.

Anne Swager asked for clarification on all of the signs. The sign toppers would be for branding, then informational signs would impart information as you walk or drive by. The sign by the history center would be detailed enough about our history that readers would have to walk up to it. Swager said she would participate in the group to look at the signs.

Brick streets: Anna Siefken said she asked the board for an additional \$50,000 to repair brick streets and \$25,000 for brick salvage and storage.

She asked for the budget information to be in the minutes: Laura said the budget schedule dictates the budget to be released to the public November 1. Budget workshops (three) would follow in November and December. December 10 is the final budget hearing and vote on the budget. The Mt. Lebanon Magazine budget item is at the bottom of these minutes for the board's reference.

Siefken said Commissioner John Bendel was working on a moratorium on deconstructing brick streets until June 2020. She reported that Rich Sieber reached out to Arthur Ziegler of Pittsburgh History and Landmarks, who would be taking the brick streets issue on as a cause, although she did not know what that would entail.

Anne Swager asked if the traffic board could take on brick streets since it serves as a traffic calmer. Matthew Moses, who had served on the traffic board, said they would need an engineering study for the board to support it, and they would likely not take action on it.

Siefken said the board would be presenting the revised brick streets plan at the December 10 commission discussion meeting. Matthew Moses, John Bendel and a former resident of Morrison would be working on revising the draft. Other committees are working on other research tied to revising the policy, including determining life cycle costs, policy review, etc. About 13 people are on the steering committee. She also said she was hoping there would be transparency in complaint calls and said perhaps they could be logged in emails so they could account for people who are, and are not, happy with planned work.

Liaison reports:

Lebanon Economic Development Council, Joe Bevins: He said the group is working on direction for the Vibrant Uptown project, for benches, lighting and other infrastructure. He said one topic is whether things like garbage cans and benches should be refurbished or replaced.

Historical Society of Mount Lebanon, Jonathan Hill: Hill reported that he attended the annual fundraiser for the Society. Jim Wojcik received an award. The Society also has replaced the gutters on the Center.

Planning Board, Alex Ferraro and Matthew Moses: None.

Mt. Lebanon Partnership Design committee, Joe Bevins: No report.

New Business: Joe Bevins said that the HPB has not brought up the historic signs with the committee working on public art for the Partnership. He said the top of the steps in front of the T station might be a good place for historic signage. Siefken said in front of the municipal building would be another place to consider.

Anne Swager said she preferred parking meters and that the proposed pay stations are not attractive. Washington Road has a historic feel that's always had parking meters.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:46 p.m. The next meeting is Monday, November 18 at 5 p.m., 710 Washington Road, Mt. Lebanon.

BUDGET TALKS The manager's recommended budget for 2020 will be available for public review on November 1. You can read paper copies at the Mt. Lebanon Public Library and at the customer service center in the Mt. Lebanon Municipal Building during business hours, 8:30 to 5, and read the budget [online](#). The Mt. Lebanon Commission will hold a budget workshop from 5 to 8 p.m., Tuesday, November 12, prior to its regularly scheduled meeting, and will conduct a public hearing at the commission meeting later that night.

Commissioners will present two more budget workshops, beginning at 6 p.m., Monday, November 25 and Thursday, December 5. The final public hearing will be at the Tuesday, December 10, commission meeting, at which time the commission will vote on adopting the 2020 budget.