

## Minutes

### Mt. Lebanon Historic Preservation Board

Monday, December 21, 2020, Mt. Lebanon Municipal Building

**Attendance: Present:** Matthew Moses, chair; Joe Bevins, Alex Ferraro, Krista Ford, Philip Neusius, Marilyn Oberst-Horner, Anne Swager; Commission liaison Mindy Ranney, Staff liaison Laura Pace Lilley. **Absent:** None

**Call to order:** Board member Matthew Moses called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.

**Citizen comments:** none

#### **Consideration of November 2020 minutes:**

The November minutes were approved unanimously.

#### **Administrative Reports**

**Chair report** — Chairman Matthew Moses said he and Krista Ford had been appointed to unexpired terms which are open in April, and both members have asked the Commission to be reappointed for that term. He also said he is happy to continue in the role of chairman but is not wedded to it. Any interested board members should contact him or Laura Pace Lilley in January.

Moses reported that he would be speaking at the 2021 virtual Mt. Lebanon Residents Academy on behalf of the board. He told board members to let him know if they had material they thought he should address at that event.

**Commission report** — Commission liaison Mindy Ranney said the board has completed its meeting schedule for the year and is currently strategizing for next year. The budget is complete and approved.

**Staff report** — Laura Pace Lilley reported that the public information office administrator had resigned and a new one hired to start January 5, 2020.

#### **Continuing business**

**Historic signage: Anne Swager** reported that Kolano Designs submitted preliminary designs to the board for consideration for the historic sign project. The board chose Option 5 of the entry sign bar and Option 1 of the sign topper. Among the considerations were the size of the medallion, removing the “contributing structure” verbiage, as well as the color and size of the type, the tree and the level of detail.

A priority is that the signs reference each other and the medallions so the district is branded and the medallion becomes a sort of seal that is repeated and recognizable within the district.

The board would like to see the sides of the sign bars have a clean design.

Swager said she would take the board's questions and priorities back to Kolano for further refinement of the design.

**Brick streets:** Commissioner Ranney said the CMU class is finalizing the white paper it will present for its class on research for the brick streets policy. The group gave two presentations in December. Ranney suggested that professor Anna Siefken attend the January board meeting to explain the white paper to the HPB.

Marilyn Oberst-Horner said she would send a thank you to the students on behalf of the board.

Anne Swager said the board has to start considering how it will rate streets. She said the class did not cover what happens when a street has a base that is deteriorated, such as what happened with Duquesne Drive. Oberst-Horner said she brought up that point in the presentation.

Swager said one of the best takeaways was that she learned you could get bricks that are fired the same way they were years ago. Ranney said 100-year guaranteed lifetime bricks from Canton, Ohio, would be available. Swager added that it also is all about the base.

The board agreed that it needs to work quickly because the moratorium on brick street replacement has expired.

Oberst-Horner was interested in reaching out to other communities who said they were interested in working with Mt. Lebanon on putting bids together to get a lower price point.

Moses said he would invite Siefken to the January meeting. Ranney said she would invite Mt. Lebanon engineer Dan Deiseroth.

The board also said they wanted to see the white paper, the raw data collected in the class and the slide decks presented in the public meetings.

Phil Neusius said he was surprised to hear that character and charm were so important and he had been focusing on the streets' historical significance, and that the policy should reflect that.

Anne Swager said brick streets lend an authenticity to a community that you don't get other places. Matthew Moses said he continues to go back to brick streets' positive effect on home values, and that the importance of home values is a fairly common consensus in the community.

The board also said they needed to collect the data and work of the ad hoc volunteer citizens committee that worked with Siefken in 2019, especially the one that was rating the conditions

of the streets. Moses said he thought the hard data from that group made its way into the work of the CMU class.

Going forward, the committee members who will handle the brick streets policy work are Phil Neusius, Matthew Moses, Anne Swager and Marilyn Oberst-Horner.

**Three-year strategic plan:** Matthew Moses said he continues to work on the plan and has a draft ready, pending a few questions he will ask soon.

**Liaison reports:**

**Lebanon Economic Development Council: Joe Bevins** said the he has been participating and watching for opportunities to include historic signage as part of the placemaking component of the Vibrant Uptown project.

Commissioner Ranney said she wanted to hear the Historic Preservation Board's desires for what should be included in the Vibrant Uptown project.

Swager said she would prefer a walking tour app. Bevins suggested augmented reality artwork. Ranney said she would take the augmented reality back to the leadership committee for the project.

**Historical Society of Mount Lebanon: Krista Ford** said Geoff Hurd will take over as president of the society in January and she will attend the January meeting.

**Planning Board, Alex Ferraro and Matthew Moses:** Moses said the planning board discussed a parking area project at Concordia Lutheran Ministries assisted living facility on Bower Hill Road but it doesn't have any impact for the Historic Preservation Board.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m. The next meeting is Monday, January 18, 2021, at 5 p.m. on Teams.