

## Minutes

### Mt. Lebanon Historic Preservation Board

Monday, February 15, 2021, Mt. Lebanon Municipal Building (Teams)

**Attendance: Present:** Matthew Moses, chair; Alex Ferraro, Krista Ford, Philip Neusius, Marilyn Oberst-Horner, Anne Swager; Commission liaison Mindy Ranney, Staff liaison Laura Pace Lilley.

**Absent:** Joe Bevins

**Call to order:** Board member Matthew Moses called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

**Citizen comments:** none

#### **Consideration of January 2021 minutes:**

The January minutes were approved unanimously.

#### **Administrative Reports**

**Chair report** — Matthew Moses said he represented the board at the Mt. Lebanon Residents Academy. He also noted he hadn't received any interest in the board's VP position but encouraged the board to volunteer.

**Commission report** — Mindy Ranney said the Commission had its annual goal-setting retreat to prioritize projects with facilitator John Trant. She said the brick street policy did not make the top 10 projects, but that doesn't change anything the board and municipality are doing. Everything will move forward as expected. Ranney said she will let the board know if any brick streets appear on the recommendation for paving this year. She said she hoped to have the brick street policy in place by August so it could feed into budget season. Staff and members of the HPB will be speaking with officials in Canton, Ohio, to ask questions about their brick street preservation policy.

**Staff report** — Laura Lilley said Phase I Vibrant Uptown project will be going to bid shortly, for sidewalks, conduit, lighting, planters and seating. Ranney said the municipality redesigned most of the curbs so they are accessible.

#### **Continuing business**

**Historic signage:** Anne Swager asked what the street sign size is and Lilley said she would follow up. Kolano will hold off on final design until they had those numbers. She also was hoping to get estimates from them.

Lilley suggested the board go in front of the Commission with the final design for its approval before finishing the contract with Kolano.

**Brick streets:** Matthew Moses said he was grateful for the CMU report, which he said is a nice start. He said some of the data would be available to the municipality but not in its raw form.

He asked Lilley to find out what the municipality would want so he could let the CMU group know. Marilyn Oberst-Horner said she wanted to have a completely transparent relationship and work closely with the municipal engineer and create the plan in an open way. She said she was concerned that the CMU study did not look at reconstruction of a brick street.

Swager said it was a flaw in the report that only repairs were considered, because if the base is destroyed, the sublayer and concrete had to be redone from curb to curb and that you can't just do little chunks of it. She said it's expensive to redo and repair brick streets, but they are a unique historic resource to the community, which makes them priceless. Once they are gone, they can't be put back in. One of the board's roles is to preserve as many historic resources as they can while educating the community about the importance of them.

Phil Neusius said maintenance costs are not necessarily more expensive and that properly maintained streets can save money over a 50-year-period, that helps to ameliorate the cost of totally redoing a brick street.

Moses asked if some towns have specialty engineers for brick streets and would be asking that question of other towns. He also said he would like to have engineers review the CMU plan.

Swager asked what the actual life cycle cost of a brick street. Our engineer and Canton says 50, but that number seems to be a moving target. The other question is about stormwater runoff and the amount of actual decrease in speed.

Neusius said the policy that CMU proposed was very similar to the draft the HPB prepared last year. The key points are communication with residents on brick streets that are being considered for paving, separating brick and asphalt in the bidding process, separating the inclusion of the Historic District from the plan the HPB submits. The biggest issue is how to implement and pay for it.

The board also discussed updating the reports to keep current with the condition of streets. And that its preference was to preserve all the brick streets, especially given the boundaries of the Historic District are arbitrary. Ranney said, given that, the municipality should make it as cost effective as possible so that it becomes a no-brainer in the future.

**Three-year strategic plan:** No report

**Liaison reports:**

**Lebanon Economic Development Council,** Joe Bevins: no report

**Historical Society of Mount Lebanon,** Krista Ford said Society met January 20 and discussed membership and continuing renovations to the History Center.

**Planning Board**, Alex Ferraro and Matthew Moses: Moses said the board heard about the movement of a property line on Osage Road. He also said a single-family home at 62 Cedar Boulevard is scheduled to be demolished and replace it with two adjoining townhomes.

**Partnership Design Committee**, Joe Bevins: No report

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m. The next meeting is Monday, March 15, 2021, at 5 p.m. on Teams.