

Minutes

Mt. Lebanon Historic Preservation Board

Monday, January 16, 2023, Mt. Lebanon Municipal Building

Attendance: Present: Krista Ford, Mary Ellen Donato, Philip Neusius, chair; Marilyn Oberst-Horner, Matthew Moses; Staff liaison Laura Pace Lilley, Commission liaison Mindy Ranney; Junior Board Member Scarlett Prendergast **Absent:** Carmine Carapella

Call to order: Board member Phil Neusius called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Citizen comments: None

Consideration of October 2022 minutes:

The October minutes were unanimously approved.

Administrative Reports

Chair report — Chairman Phil Neusius and Commission liaison Mindy Ranney discussed the way the new board alignment will work after April 2024, and proposed historic preservation duties for the new board as well as discussed the backgrounds of the people who might be good fits for that board.

Ranney said the Commission will approve a restructuring ordinance, but also create a workplan/charter that will talk about what each board will do.

Among the subject matter the board said was essential included: Historic District Support/Expansion, educational work, oversight over historic preservation issues (such as FCC towers in the district/other mitigation), brick streets preservation, liaison with other groups (such as planning board), being a resource for residents. Among the skills sets requested are: historic preservation expert, Realtor, architect/designer, historian. Ranney said there will be nine total people on the new board (Community Sustainability and Economic Development Advisory Board)

Commission report — Mindy Ranney said the budget was completed and is posted online. The Commission funded approximately \$60,000 in brick street repair. The Commission will be having conversations about brick street repair in the coming months with regard to the budget, depending on whether brick streets are being recommended for reconstruction. The commission generally spends \$2.2 million on road reconstruction. The goal is to keep 90 percent of the brick streets. (Steep, dead-end, etc. may not be kept.)

Junior Board member report — No report

Staff report — Staff liaison Laura Lilley reported that Jason Haberman was hired as police chief.

Continuing business —

Historic signage: Lilley reported that the sample signs did not fit atop the street signs and that another sample was fabricated. It fit and the rest of the signs have been ordered. Sample is currently installed at North Meadowcroft. Another on Salem Drive was stolen after an accident. Mary Ellen Donato will be the chair of this committee going forward.

Brick streets:

Public Education/Board Education Events: Phil Neusius said he spoke with former member Anne Swager Wilson, who was working on the education event. She said that Alyssa Jones from the Historical Society was interested in helping the board.

Liaison reports

Comprehensive Plan, Phil Neusius noted that survey responses said respondents felt future development and redevelopment should respect Mt. Lebanon's historic character. The Comp Plan will next be moving into the focus group stage.

Mt. Lebanon Economic Development Council: Matthew Moses said the board discussed the draft Complete Streets policy. He reiterated that the desire was for the policy to refer to the brick streets policy, and that the policy should reference how brick streets should be designed.

The Vibrant Uptown project was not completed at the end of December as previously announced. The intended bagel store is not going forward. East End Brewing (Washington Road) and a coffee and record shop on Castle Shannon Boulevard are moving forward.

Historical Society of Mount Lebanon: No report

Planning Board, Marilyn Oberst-Horner said at the October planning board meeting, the board tabled a proposal for townhomes on Pennsylvania Boulevard until they had a chance to meet with the developer in person. She was not at the meeting the following month, but a person on Robb Hollow Drive will be consolidating three lots, keeping a garage and tearing down the home. She also mentioned that Mt. Lebanon is attracting an increasing number of out-of-state residents. The number of residents who have lived here more than 20 years has decreased.

Partnership Design Committee: No report. Mary Ellen Donato to be the liaison going forward.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m. The next meeting is Monday, February 20, 2022, at 5 p.m. in person and on Zoom.