

## **OCT. 10, 2023 HPC MEETING MINUTES**

**Present:** Katy Beckman, Carol Gardner, Janet Malotky, Pam Miller, Liz Schmidt (Goodhue County Historical Society liaison)

**Absent:** Jim McIlrath (Town Board liaison). No citizens were present.

### **MINUTES**

Katy called the meeting to order and led the Pledge. Minutes from the Sept. 12 HPC meeting were approved as read. (They have since been posted on the township website.)

No design applications.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Grant No. 2 update:** SHPO is still not done with its review of Carole Zelle's completed second project. Katy said she talked to SHPO folks at the September conference to urge them to expedite it. Carole has already billed the Town Board for it. After SHPO is done with its review, it will go to the National Park Service.

**SHPO conference report:** Katy, who attended the September conference in Mankato, told us about it. She went to one conference with attorneys who stressed that people should never go onto historic properties without permission. Knowing that led to a discussion about how we really could use a code enforcement officer for monitoring historic properties. Katy also talked about how the conference's keynote speaker challenged some preservation traditions for landmarks. There was also some discussion about how new building products can be used in historic renovations.

**In a segue,** Carol talked a bit about the HPC's mission in evaluating properties that involve our neighbors and urged those of us who will remain on the HPC after she steps down to now and in the future deny or approve with conditions design applications that don't meet our historic standards/guidelines, as we were directed to do by the CLG State Historic

Office of Preservation's Michael Koop. Our guidelines enable our HPC to make consistent and fair decisions when property owners seek to renovate or construct new buildings in the historic district, Carol reminded us. Past HPCs have not been consistent in their approvals, she said. The ultimate decision on whether building and rehabs are allowed lies with the Town Board, but we make recommendations based on our historic standards and the U.S. Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, as directed by our HPC ordinance.

**Locust Lodge update:** The Town Board sent its letter to Margaret Anteblian. No reply yet. (Update from the next day: She replied to the letter with a request to delay any enforcement. The Town Board will decide its next step at its next meeting.)

**Lilac giveaway/plant exchange:** Our late friend Joyce's husband, Johnny Engstrom, donated \$600 and ordered lilacs for next year's exchange that we will pick up on May 1. Very generous of him, we all agreed. Any further donations in Joyce's name will go to the Town Board, where treasurer Tom Gnotke will specify their use for HPC projects.

**Street lights:** Some progress in getting the beach light closer to our historic district specifications. Nothing new on the Van Blarcum light, although Xcel is sending Janet a form to provide it with info on that one.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Fading street signs:** Katy urged HPC members to take photos of any of our green historic street signs that are fading and hard to read.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m. Next meeting will be at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 14.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Miller  
HPC secretary

