

Florence Township Heritage Preservation Commission

Meeting Minutes, July 19, 2011

Attendance: Char Henn, Art Hamilton, Bill Flies, Brad Stone, Laurie Hodgson, Justin Thomson, and Mike Blair.

Meeting Called to order at 7:00 pm

Minutes from June 21st, 2011 meeting approved with one minor revision concerning the HPC working in concert with the Christ Church Old Frontenac Preservation Partners in pursuing State of Minnesota grant funds.

Brad Stone made a motion to recommend to the Town Board that they support the moratorium against Silica Sand Mining in Hay Creek Township and related activities in the surrounding communities. The HPC believes Silica Sand Mining and its related activities could significantly compromise Florence Township's unique Historical Character.

Laurie and Brad plan to have lunch next week with a church in Wabasha that had success raising State Funds for a renovation project last year. Their goal will be to learn more about how Christ Church can proceed in pursuing State funds for its restoration.

Brad announced that Christ Church had recently received a gift of \$135 thousand from a local Family Foundation. This gift will enable the church to accelerate its plans for the restoration of the siding and stained glass windows.

Bill reported that the Planning Commission met to discuss the Town Hall becoming a Historic District. The PC believed it would help the Township pursue public grants. There was a question as to whether both the building and the parcel of land around the Town Hall would both become a Historic District. It was observed that the Post Office is on this parcel. Bill will investigate this issue. It was also discussed that should the Historic designation be received, the Friends of the Town Hall would join the HPC as a subcommittee.

The invoice from the Park Supervisor was accepted and approved for payment.

Virginia Oliver shared with us that the Wells family from Canada had presented the Friends of the Town Hall with the Wells' family Bible. She also showed pictures of members of the Wells family and shared some stories from the 1800's about the Wells family.

The HPC members expressed that it would be useful to support and include in our meetings more participation from Township residents knowledgeable about our history.

Justin asked about street signs and Mike responded that we need State Funding to replace our Township street signs. Mike anticipated this would happen in the next few years.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.