

# HPC minutes for January 12, 2021

Meeting called to order via tele-conference at 6pm.

Joe Ellingson, Cathy Kouchich, Todd Avery, Carol Gardner & Joyce Engstrom were present as well as 8 guests including guest speaker Mike Koop from SHPO.

Minutes from the December 8, 2020 meeting were read & approved.

New members Carol Gardner & Joyce Engstrom introduced themselves.

## New Business:

Guest speaker Mike Koop from SHPO, the state historic preservation office, presented the CLG grant program. This year, due to Covid, SHPO is making CLG grants available requiring no match. The FT HPC would like to pursue obtaining a grant. Two possible projects were presented.

1. updating the 1973 National Register nomination form for the Old Frontenac historic district.
2. preparing a guideline document focusing on the parks/landscapes within the historic district.

The commission voted on pursuing the first project of updating the 1973 nomination form.

Mike Koop also addressed the expiration of the MN Historic Structure Rehabilitation State Tax Credit on June 30, 2021. Many of Minnesota's buildings that have been rehabbed have been able to utilize the 20% tax credit together with the federal 20% tax credit. We discussed if there would be any buildings in Frontenac that would be affected by the loss of this tax credit. Unfortunately there were no buildings in FT that we could think of that would be affected by this since the tax credit is only for income producing properties.

Old Business:

Continued discussion regarding Valhalla Park restoration. Historical documentation was forwarded to the Park commission. Since new members were not aware of the area of the park where black locust trees are trying to be retained as legacy trees, we decided to have an informational meeting at the site.

Continued discussion on updating historic district boundaries. We are hoping that this issue may be addressed as part of the CLG grant.

Todd Avery discussed researching getting broadband into the township area. He is continuing to look into it.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45.

## ADDITIONAL MINUTES FROM THE VALHALLA PARK ON-SITE VISIT:

Due to having a quorum of HPC members present, we had to declare it an open meeting. It was scheduled for Saturday Jan 23 at 10 in the park by Locust Lodge. Kristen enlisted the help of a licensed arborist Manuel Jordan of Heritage Shade Tree to join us. Many members from the park board joined us as well. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Kouchich, HPC chair