

Historical Preservation Commission

Meeting Minutes, October 18, 2011

Attendance: Char Henn, Art Hamilton, Bill Flies, Brad Stone, Laurie Hodgson, Kerby Rigelman,

Meeting Called to order at 7:00 pm

Minutes of September meeting approved.

At the September 2011 Town Board meeting, the Supervisors voted to proceed with steps toward the formation of a Park Commission which could take over responsibility of the Florence Township Parks from the HPC. Bill Flies was asked to draft a Parks Commission ordinance and set of bylaws to be reviewed by the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors. The planned schedule for establishing a Parks Commission requires that all documents be ready for the March 2012 annual township meeting where the public could approve the Parks Commission and the revised HPC ordinance which would then remove the park responsibility from the HPC and, with a separate public vote, if approved, add the Florence Town Hall historic district to the HPC.

The Friends of the Florence Township Town Hall voted to support the creation of the Florence Town Hall historic district. The town board will decide the best way to seat the HPC commission such that both the Frontenac historic district and the Florence Town Hall historic district are properly represented. The two options are (1) to appoint three members in April 2012 when two existing seats and one open seat will be available or (2) terminate all HPC terms effective after the April 2012 meeting and solicit new applications from which to seat the HPC for May 2012.

Preservation Day will be held Sunday, October 23rd from 2pm to 4pm, at Christ Church. The program will include a presentation on the History of Frontenac, a talk on the History of the Christ Church Cemetery, a summary of the Christ Church Restoration project, and a presentation by Carl Erickson from Willette Hauser on stained glass window restoration.

The HPC Ordinances have been revised in draft form to include the Town Hall Historic District in addition to the Frontenac Historic District and to delete the HPC's responsibilities for Public Lands. This draft will be reviewed and revised by the town board prior to the March 2012 annual township meeting at which time it will go to public vote. These revisions do not stand alone but, rather, require (1) the public approval of establishing the Florence Town Hall historic district and (2), the public approval of a Parks Commission.

The HPC Bylaws have also been revised in draft form for town board review and would be effective only if the public approves a Park Commission at which time administration of the Park Supervisor would be the responsibility of the Park Commission chairman rather than the HPC chairman.

Christ Church is still waiting on a ridge cap to complete its roofing project.

The HPC expects to hear from SHPO in December 2011 regarding a grant for the Christ Church Restoration.

The Valhalla Park Buckthorn project with the Sentence to Serve folks is planned for Wednesday, October 26th and Thursday, October 27th. The HPC approved that buckthorn would be removed within 15 to 20 feet of the roads that border Valhalla Park.

The Park Supervisor submitted an invoice which was approved by the Chairman.

The HPC Annual Report was reviewed and approved and will be presented to the town board along with a cover letter that, if acceptable to the board, will be forwarded to Minnesota SHPO in satisfaction of the HPC's annual CLG requirements.

The meeting Adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Next Meeting is Tuesday, November 15, 2011.