

VILLAGE OF LOMBARD
REQUEST FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACTION
For Inclusion on Board Agenda

Resolution or Ordinance (Blue) Waiver of First Requested
 Recommendations of Boards, Commissions & Committees (Green)
 Other Business (Pink)

TO : PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: Scott Niehaus, Village Manager

DATE : January 23, 2018 (BOT) Date: February 1, 2018

SUBJECT: Lombard Historic Preservation Commission 2017 Annual Report

SUBMITTED BY: William J. Heniff, AICP, Director of Community Development *WJH*

BACKGROUND/POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

The Historic Preservation Commission is requesting the Village Board acknowledge that the Historic Preservation Commission has completed this requirement.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source:

Review (as necessary):
Finance Director _____ Date _____
Village Manager _____ Date _____

NOTE: All materials must be submitted to and approved by the Village Manager's Office by 12:00 noon, Wednesday, prior to the agenda distribution.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Scott R. Niehaus, Village Manager

FROM: William J. Heniff, AICP, Director of Community Development *WJH*

MEETING

DATE: February 1, 2018

SUBJECT: Historic Preservation Commission; Annual Report

Please find attached the Annual Report for 2017 to be distributed to the Village Board. At the Historic Preservation Commission meeting on January 9, 2018, the Commissioners discussed the draft report presented by the Commission's President, Rita Schneider.

The Historic Preservation Commission meets quarterly (January, April, July and October). This task is completed annually according to the Village's Code of Ordinance; Title III; Chapter 32 Departments, Boards, and Commissions; Sections 32.075 – 32.079 Historical Commission; 32.076 Meetings; Annual Report (B): *The Commission shall make an annual report to the corporate authorities in January of each year, or more often as it may deem fit, which report may make recommendations in keeping with the spirit of this subchapter, and the enabling statute providing for creation of this Commission.*

Action Requested

In the past, this report has been distributed to the Village Board with no action required. However, the Historic Preservation Commission is requesting that the Village Board acknowledges that the Historic Preservation Commission has completed this requirement at one of their future meetings. It is also now a requirement according to Certified Local Government procedures.

The Historic Preservation Commission's next scheduled meeting is April 17, 2018.

January 9, 2018

Village President, Keith Giagnorio
and Village Board of Trustees
255 E. Wilson Avenue
Lombard, Illinois

Dear President Giagnorio and Village Board of Trustees,

The Lombard Historic Preservation Commission is required to submit “to the corporate authorities”, a written report in January of each year, to inform the Village of the activities of the Commission during the past year. We submit the following to fulfill that commitment.

As required by Ordinance, the Lombard Historic Preservation Commission met on the usual quarterly basis during 2017. An election of officers took place in January resulting in the current officers: Rita Schneider, President; Brigitte O’Brien, Vice-President and Lyn Myers as Secretary.

Sharon Kuderna, Village Clerk, was appointed as liaison to the Village Board and we welcomed her to our meetings beginning in July. She will be reporting to the Village Board on our activities.

During the year, two Commissioners have resigned due to their move from Lombard. Richard Anstee and John “Jack” Jones have both relocated. We have replaced one position. Robert Wardzala of Lombard and a long time member of the LHS Board of Management has joined the Commission. We have two additional candidates for the second position which will be reviewed in January.

The Commission joined the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions and the Illinois Alliance of Historic Preservation Commissions in 2016. The IAHPC is affiliated with Landmarks, Illinois. This organization has been helpful to the LHPC and in May of 2017, we co-hosted a meeting in Lombard. The meeting was meant to highlight our accomplishments and our methods to members of the Chicago Suburban Preservation Alliance. The meeting was attended by Commissioners from Oak Park, River Forest, Downers Grove, Villa Park, Evanston, Highland Park, Aurora, Elgin, Wheaton, Elmhurst and Wilmette. Speakers included Village Trustee Reid Foltyniewicz, Lisa Dichiera of Landmarks, IL, Sarah Richardt, Rita Schneider and William Heniff. Attendees were particularly interested in Mr. Heniff discussion on the workings of the permit department and their consideration of historical properties and how they combine the process to bring about successful businesses in historic buildings. The Victorian Cottage and Carriage House were open for touring. The meeting was held at the Calvary Episcopal Meeting Room with lunch served from Shannon’s Deli. Afterwards, the attendees were invited to attend a tour of Lilacia Park by Sarah Richardt and then a tour of the Sheldon Peck Museum.

These organizations provide vital information and education for our Commissioners members. The more presence we have in these organizations, the more attention we receive on the State and Federal scene, particularly in regard to the Sheldon Peck Homestead.

The Commission reported in 2016 in regard to the Certified Local Government program, with an eye to finding outside funding for projects that we initiate. This program is monitored by the State Preservation Agency but is a National program of matching grants. Our application was

sent in November 2016 and was not acknowledged by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. Many attempts were made to communicate with the IHPA. It was discussed and the decision was made to appeal to our local State Representative and State Senators offices for assistance.

This proved to be an excellent approach as a letter was received shortly after that the CLG designation had been approved and sent to the National Park Service for verification. We are now a Certified Local Government and will be submitting a grant application in February this year. The Commission must choose a project which could include further building surveys, National Register applications and many other categories of financial assistance.

During 2017, the latest building survey, commissioned in 2016 was added to the Architectural & Historical Survey. The Village website now will boast over 200 buildings of note. Tami Urish, liaison to the Commission from the Community Development Department, began an effort to better index and make available all of the survey results. The 3 surveys have been done by Douglas Gilbert, an historical architect from Oak Park. As we have stated in the past, this is a significant resource and asset for Lombard property owners. The 42 properties surveyed in 2016 were mostly properties from the northwest and northeast quadrants of the village.

On April 18th the Local Landmarks Committee, chaired by Eileen Mueller, celebrated the culmination of a 4 year project to place historic signage on the Illinois Prairie Path that commemorates the Chicago, Aurora and Elgin Railroad. The signage has received many positive accolades. It was featured in the latest newsletter of the Illinois Prairie Path Association and on December 2, 2017, members of the Commission attended a regional meeting of the IAHP where the project was presented with an Award of Excellence for the IPP Signage project. It would be difficult to name all those who contributed to this project but we are grateful for the work by Tami Urish of the Community Development and Carl Goldsmith, Public Works Director.

Other work by the Local Landmarks Committee (Eileen Mueller, Jennifer Henaghan, Jack Jones, Tom Fetters and Marcy Novak) was the installation of the Local Landmark plaque on the Lackner Building at 128-132 W. St. Charles Road, which was designated in 2016. The owner of the building, Tom Masterson, came to the LHPC in 2017 for a Certificate of Appropriateness for a new awning on the facade one of the occupants, Brick's Wood Fired Pizza. The LHPC approved the awning and the Certificate was issued.

It was discovered that one of our Landmarks, 305 E. Morningside, had been foreclosed and was for sale. Subsequently, we learned that the house had been rehabbed and the windows changed without regard to the Landmark status and the ordinance requiring any exterior changes to be reviewed by the LHPC. In addition, it was learned that the rehab was performed without obtaining any permits from the Village. The Village Code Enforcement Division has issued a Code Violation letter and will deal with the new owners. The Commission will need to negate the Landmark status after conferring with the Village Attorney.

The William J. Mueller Heritage Award was presented in October to 2 recipients. Patricia Poskocil received the award for Lifetime Achievement focusing on her work with the LHS and the restoration of the Sheldon Peck Homestead. The Rudman Family received an award for their book highlighting their growing up in Lombard in the category of Advocacy/Education. There are copies of their book at the Helen M. Plum library and at the Lombard Historical Society.

During the year, it was brought to the Commission's attention that one of their surveyed

buildings, the McKee House on St. Charles Road was in danger of being razed. The 1935 complex was built as a project under the Works Project Administration (WPA) by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The buildings are currently in Lombard but an annexation agreement will place it in Glen Ellyn. Glen Ellyn is now leasing the complex from the DuPage County Forest Preserve District who owns the property and has set up the McKee House Oversight Committee. Another group, the McKee House Preservation Group (private citizens) are working to restore the property and working with the Oversight Committee. We have kept informed about the process through the Preservation Group and while we will not participate as the Commission, there are individuals who may possibly participate in their activities to restore the property.

The Lombard Cemetery continues to be a part of the work of the Commission. During 2016, the Commission and the Society continued working with the Lombard VFW Lilac Post #5815 and the VFW Women's Auxiliary. Lombard Boy Scouts and Girl Scout troops participated in a cemetery spring cleanup in May. There are some tree maintenance and tombstone concerns that will be addressed in 2018.

Members of the LHPC traveled (at their own expense) to Jordan, New York to attend the dedication of an Historical Roadside Marker on the property once owned by Sheldon Peck and his family where they lived from 1828-1836. Along with Sarah Richardt of the LHS, they met with the Director of the Cayuga County Historical Society where two very prominent Peck paintings are on display. They also met with a private owner of two other Peck paintings believed to have been made by Peck during his life in Jordan.

The LHS has many plans in place for events in 2018 and is also working toward a Sheldon Peck Exhibit in 2019 with more than 15 original works on display.

The issue of the foundation repairs at the Peck Homestead has been monitored by the Commission. The repairs are complete with the east end of the building being raised about 5 inches and new beams in place. That end of the building was built on dirt with large boulders holding up the structure. This has been alleviated with poured concrete foundation pillars. The cost of the repairs was paid by the LHS. The Public Works Department handled a few of the repair items. The construction also added a new entrance to the bathroom, making it Handicap Accessible.

The Personnel representative of the Commission, Patricia Poskocil continues to monitor the personnel issues at the LHS. There have been a few changes in positions but the Society Director has done an excellent job of staffing.

We have relied on personnel in the Community Development Department during the year and are grateful for their expertise and cooperation. Tami Urish, a Planner in the Community Development Department is our liaison to the Village.

We are also very grateful to the Public Works Department for all of the assistance with the physical aspects of the historic properties and the Lombard Cemetery.

The Historic Preservation Commission is proud of its work and accomplishments this year as we hope that you are also. We will continue to assist the Historical Society in its goals, continue to be involved in the Cemetery Committee and continue the work of preserving historic sites and artifacts in Lombard.

Sincerely,

Rita M. Schneider, Chairperson
Brigitte O'Brien, Vice-Chairperson
Lyn Myers, Secretary
Thomas Feters
Jennifer Henaghan
Eileen Mueller
Marcy Novak
Patricia Poskocil
Robert Wardzala
Stephanie Zabela