



MEMORANDUM

TO: Scott R. Niehaus, Village Manager

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

MEETING

DATE: February 2, 2023

SUBJECT: Historic Preservation Commission; Annual Report

Please find attached the Annual Report for 2022 to be distributed to the Village Board. At the Historic Preservation Commission meeting on January 17, 2023, the Commissioners discussed the report presented by the Commission's Secretary, Lyn Myers.

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.

An annual report is also a requirement according to Certified Local Government procedures.

Action Requested

The Historic Preservation Commission unanimously recommends approval of the annual report. Please place this item on the February 2, 2023 Village Board agenda for acceptance.

The Historic Preservation Commission's next scheduled meeting is April 18, 2023.

LHPC 2022 Annual Report

The Commission is pleased to be working with our new Village Board Liaison - Liz Brezinski.

The work of the Cemetery Committee has begun again after the pandemic. Commissioner Schneider re-established the Cemetery Committee gaining participation from the Commission, the Lombard Historical Society, VFW Lilac Post #5815, the Lombard Garden Club, Lombard Park District and the village Public Works Department. Ongoing work continues to keep the cemetery in good order. Early in 2022, the Village Forestry Department removed a diseased tree from the property. Later in the year, after a windstorm, the Department acted quickly to remove a tree that was heavily damaged. Additional work will continue in 2023 prioritizing cleanup, landscaping and signage. The committee is also attempting to locate the graves of all veterans buried in Lombard cemeteries, particularly Allerton Ridge cemetery on Highland Avenue.

Using funds obtained through a Certified Local Government grant, Commissioners Lyn Myers and Jason Sanders worked with Alison Costanzo, Director of the Lombard Historical Society, to create a pamphlet on the value and procedure for obtaining Local Landmark Designations. The brochure was drafted, designed and printed using grant funds. It is now available to the public at the Historical Society and Village Hall. Commissioner Sanders completed all financial filings and paperwork to fulfill the requirements of the grant.

Commissioners Wardzala and O'Donnell were appointed to the Local Landmarks Committee of the Commission.

The Commission received a Local Landmark Request for the residence at 245 W Maple St. The home was the original rectory at Sacred Heart Church and was moved to its current location on West Maple around 1960.

- A public hearing was held on May 17 to discuss and provide a preliminary conclusion on the application for landmark designation. The Commission recommended in favor of the application;
- At a special meeting the Commission recommended the Village Board approve an ordinance designating 245 W Maple St. as a landmark site;
- The ordinance was approved by the Village Board;
- The plaque was presented to the homeowners on October 15, bringing the total number of designated local landmarks to 11.

The Commission forwarded data to Village Staff to update the Local Landmark map on the Village website. Efforts were made to provide consistent information for each site as well as update the list of sites.

The combined Commission and Lombard Historical Society budget, which includes property management of historical sites, ended the 2022 year 27% below projected totals. Additional expenses may still affect final numbers, but the impact should be minimal.

The Village requirement that in-person attendance at Commission meetings be mandatory, limited the ability of several Commissioners to participate in the work of the Commission this year. Several Commission members have health concerns or high risk family members at home and were not able to attend in person meetings. Each member of the commission brings valuable experience in the historical field. Allowing virtual attendance through available technology would allow our Commissioners to provide valuable expertise without compromising personal safety.

The Commission lost a steadfast partner in its efforts to preserve and celebrate Lombard history when Commissioner Marcy Novak passed away in September. Marcy has been a member of the Commission since 1984, lending her expertise as a career educator in the Lombard public school system. She was instrumental in developing a section on Lombard history in the District 44 schools for the 5th grade, a practice which continues today. In addition, she developed a child's coloring book to be used by the LHS for educational purposes. She was a valuable member of the Local Landmarks Committee and helped develop the historical signage commemorating the Chicago Aurora and Elgin Railroad system on the Prairie Path.

There is currently an open position on the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Schneider, Lombard Historic Preservation Commission President

Tom Feters

Eileen Mueller

Lyn Myers

Brigitte O'Brien

Lynn O'Donnell

Patricia Poskocil

Jason Sanders

Bob Wardzala

Stephanie Zabela

Lombard Historic Preservation Commissioners