

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)
 X Other Business (Pink)

TO: PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: Scott R. Niehaus, Village Manager

DATE: March 10, 2016 (B of T) Date: March 17, 2016

TITLE: Historical Commission; Annual Report

SUBMITTED BY: Department of Community Development

BACKGROUND/POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

The Department of Community Development transmits for your consideration a memorandum requesting that the Village Board acknowledges that the Historical Commission has completed the Annual Report for 2015.

The Historical Commission's next scheduled meeting is April 19, 2016.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source:

Review (as necessary):

Village Attorney X _____ Date _____

Finance Director X _____ Date _____

Village Manager X _____ 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*

DATE: February 18, 2016

SUBJECT: **Historical Commission; Annual Report**

Please find attached the Annual Report for 2015 to be distributed to the Village Board. At the Historical Commission meeting on January 19, 2016, the Commissioners discussed the draft report presented by the Commission's President, Rita Schneider.

The Historical 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 Historical Commission is requesting that the Village Board acknowledges that the Historical Commission has completed this requirement at one of their future meetings.

The Historical Commission's next scheduled meeting is April 19, 2016.

January 20, 2016

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 Historical 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 Historical Commission met on the usual quarterly basis during 2015. In addition, four special meetings were held, and a Public Hearing.

During 2015, the Local Landmarks Committee, chaired by Eileen Mueller, continued the work with architect, Douglas Gilbert, to identify and investigate 40 additional properties to be included in the Lombard Historical and Architectural Survey. The work was completed and needs some additional notes and corrections before being approved by the Commission and then sent to the Village Board for approval. After that process, these 40 properties will join the 108 properties already on the Village website.

The Survey Committee is made up of Eileen Mueller and Rita Schneider from the Historical Commission, Jennifer Ganser, Community Development Department of the Village, Jennifer Henaghan, as Historic Sites and Markers Chairperson of the Historical Society and now the Historical Society President, Jean Cooper, Archivist for the Historical Society and Sarah Richardt, Executive Director of Lombard Towne Centre.

As we have stated in the past, this is a significant resource and asset for Lombard property owners. This year we have added some interesting types of properties. For example, several mid-century modern homes are included that are indicative of the growth of Lombard during the 1950-60's. The survey cost was a modest \$1500.00, and we have already budgeted for another 40 properties to be surveyed in 2016.

In conjunction with the survey and Local Landmarks program, a new power point was developed by Tami Urish (CDD) and Lyn Meyers of the Commission, to be shown on Channel 6 and on the board in the Village Hall.

The Local Landmarks Committee has also continued the work to design and implement historic signage on the Illinois Prairie Path to commemorate the Chicago, Aurora and Elgin Railroad (originally known as the Aurora, Elgin and Chicago). There was significant progress but it was held up by problems regarding copyright of photos to be included on the signs. We are now at the point of working with the design firm. The text on each of the four signs, Westmore Avenue, Stewart Avenue, Main Street and Brewster Street (Green Valley) has been composed and agreed upon. We hope to have this project completed in Spring 2016.

Other work by the Local Landmarks Committee, (Eileen Mueller, Jennifer Henaghan, Jack Jones and Marcie Novak) was the investigation and application for Local Landmark status of the Lombard Hotel (Babcock's Grove House) at 101 W. St. Charles Road. A public meeting was held and the application was confirmed and accepted by the Historical Commission which sent it to the Village Board for approval. The Village Board approved the motion on April 16th and the property is now included in the list of Local Landmarks. We are very pleased to have helped bring new life to this building and the owners, Thomas and Margret Smith have done a remarkable job of restoration. As you may know, a new restaurant is planning to open on the first floor, hopefully in the spring. I believe we need to credit Sarah Richardt, the Director of Lombard Town Centre, with a great amount of work to accomplish the Local Landmark status. We also recognize the work of the Community Development Department in working with the new owners. They were extremely helpful and enthusiastic about the project.

The Finance representative of the Commission, Richard Anstee, continues to work with the Historical Society on their budget and report back to the Commission that the budget is in good condition. Dick works with members of the Village staff on ongoing projects. Commissioner Anstee also helped with the transition between the former and new treasurers of the Historical Society.

A minor change in the Historic Commission Ordinance was made and approved by the Village Board in April 2015. The change was made to clarify that "the interiors of buildings are only included when specifically designated in the siting ordinance."

The new exhibit at the Sheldon Peck Homestead coordinated by Nicole Louis of the Historical Society staff, was honored by the American Association of State and Local History, in September of 2015 with a special award and a \$5,000 check. This is the first time since 1973 that the Society has won an award by the AASLH. This is a very prestigious honor.

The Lombard Cemetery continues to be a part of the work of the Commission. During 2015, the Commission and the Society continued working with the Lombard VFW Lilac Post #5815 and the VFW Women's Auxiliary. In October 2015, a stone and two plaques were installed near the central flagpole. A dedication ceremony took place on October 8, 2015. One plaque lists the names of each of the 34 Veterans who are buried in Lombard Cemetery. The second plaque is a thank you to the donors of the "Pennies for Patriots" (PFP) program. Although the dedication marked the completion of the PFP project, the Commission and Society will continue to work with the VFW and it's Auxiliary on other projects.

The Cemetery Restoration Committee was the recipient of the William Mueller Heritage Award by the Historical Commission. This was based on the work of the original committee of the Village Public Works, the Historical Commission, the Historical Society, the Park District and the Garden Club. Included in the certificates were the 4 schools who participated, the Eagle Scouts, Matthew Kaefer and Daniel Kaylor, the VFW Lilac Post and the VFW Auxiliary.

The Lombard Historical Society President, reported to the Commission in writing on a quarterly basis and also attended the Commission quarterly meetings to provide input and answer questions that the Commissioners had regarding the Society or Museum properties.

In 2015, the Society planned and hosted the *Bootleggers Bash* and the *Civil War Encampment* that was attended by over 4,500 people. They were active in *Lilac Time activities*, including historic tours of Lilacia Park and the Victorian Cottage on a daily basis during Lilac Time. They hosted members of the Peck family descendants and many interested participants for a "*Picknick at the Peck*" at the Sheldon Peck Homestead, and an "*Ice Cream Social*" at the Gazebo. *Spooktacular*, a Halloween celebration in conjunction with Lombard Town Centre was well attended, as was *Jinglebell Jubilee*, a December celebration showcasing a Victorian Christmas at the Cottage.

The Personnel Representative of the Commission, Patricia Poskocil, reported during the year on the activities of the Historical Society staff.

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.

It has been a very busy year, and your Historical Commission is proud of its work and accomplishments. 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
Richard Anstee
Thomas Fetters
Jennifer Henaghan
Jack Jones
Eileen Mueller
Marcy Novak
Patricia Poskocil
Stephanie Zabela