

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: January 25, 2017 (B of T) Date: February 2, 2017

TITLE: Historic Preservation Commission; Annual Report

SUBMITTED BY: Department of Community Development *W*

BACKGROUND/POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

The Department of Community Development transmits for your consideration a memorandum requesting that the Village Board acknowledges that the Historic Preservation Commission has completed the Annual Report for 2016.

The Historic Preservation Commission's next scheduled meeting is April 18, 2017.

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 

MEETING

DATE: February 2, 2017

SUBJECT: Historic Preservation Commission; Annual Report

Please find attached the Annual Report for 2016 to be distributed to the Village Board. At the Historic Preservation Commission meeting on January 17, 2017, 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.

The Historic Preservation Commission's next scheduled meeting is April 18, 2017.

January 17, 2017

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 2016. In addition, two special meetings and a Public Hearing were held.

A change of name for the Historical Commission was proposed in April of 2016. This proposal reflected a review of the 76 like commissions in the Chicago suburban area, 58 of which use the word “preservation” in their title. The name proposed was the *Lombard Historic Preservation Commission*. The Commission sent this proposal to the Village Board for approval and the ordinance change was made in June. The Commission felt that this change might also be beneficial in distinguishing the difference between the Historical Society and the Commission.

In conjunction with the name change, the Commission also joined the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions and the Illinois Alliance of Preservation Commissions. Both of these organizations provide vital information and education for members. The Commission is also a member of the Chicago Suburban Preservation Alliance, which has several meetings a year in different towns in the area. Last year several of our commissioners attended several of these meetings. We are hosting the Suburban Alliance in May at the Historical Society Carriage House. 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.

There have been some events at the Sheldon Peck Homestead that reflect a national interest in the site. In May, William Aylsworth Kennedy and his family visited the Peck Homestead. Kennedy is the great-great grandchild of John Aylsworth, whose portrait was painted by Sheldon Peck in 1836. The family had recently discovered the painting was an original Peck portrait and transferred ownership of the painting to the Yale University Art Gallery in 2014. The Historical Society is in the processes of having a copy made of the portrait for the collections.

In July, the Peck Homestead hosted Nebraska high school teacher Barry Jurgensen during his 527-mile walk from Nebraska to Chicago to bring attention to modern day slavery and the Underground Railroad. Also speaking on the topic was Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives cofounders Robert Benz and Kenneth B. Morris Jr. Morris is a direct descendent of Frederick Douglass and Booker T. Washington. Attendees included descendants of Sheldon Peck.

At both events, application for the National Register was discussed and met with enthusiastic encouragement. To that end, our writer, Jean Follett had met with members of the Commission in December to discuss plans to rewrite and make a new application to the National Register.

With an eye to finding outside funding for projects that we initiate, the Commission discussed the Certified Local Government Program (CLG), which is monitored by the State Preservation Agency but is a National program of matching grants. Research was done into CLG's in Plainfield, Glen Ellyn, Downers Grove and others in the area. After discussion with several Village Officials, the Commission compiled an application with resumes of our 11 Commissioners, our current programs of Historical Surveys, and projects involving the Lombard Cemetery and Historical Society. The application was delivered to the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency in December. We expect to hear from the agency soon.

During 2016, the Local Landmarks Committee, chaired by Eileen Mueller, worked with architect, Douglas Gilbert, to review another 42 additional properties to be included in the Lombard Historical and Architectural Survey. We currently have 160 properties on the survey.

The Survey Committee is made up of Eileen Mueller and Rita Schneider from the Historic Preservation 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 the Historical Society.

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.

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). Eight meetings of the Committee were held in 2016 in regard to this signage. All of the copyright and photo issues were resolved and the signage has been delivered to the Village. They will be installed in the spring after the placement is approved.

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 Lackner Building at 128-132 W. St. Charles Road. A Public meeting was held and the application was confirmed and accepted by the Historic Preservation Commission, which sent it to the Village Board for approval. The Village Board approved the motion and the property is now included in the list of Local Landmarks. Thomas Masterson who owns the building also owns the historic house to the west of the Lackner building. He has indicated that he will also apply to the Commission for Landmark status on the house. We look forward to working with Tom on that application.

The Finance representative of the Commission, Richard Anstee, continues to work with the Historical Society on their budget and reports back to the Commission that the budget is in good condition. Dick works with members of the Village staff on ongoing projects. Last year we reported that Commissioner Anstee also helped with the transition of the former and new treasurers of the Historical Society. In 2016, Commissioner Anstee has also worked with the transition of the former and new executive directors.

Other excellent financial news was the receipt of the \$45,000 grant from the State of Illinois. That funding plus additional funds obtained through programs initiated by the Society, enabled the complete repayment of the Village loan that was made to build the addition to the Carriage House at 23 W. Maple.

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. In 2016, the 3 groups conducted a Cemetery Tour in conjunction with a program "Know your Flag".

The Personnel representative of the Commission, Patricia Poskocil, worked with the Society to replace the Executive Director who resigned in March. The new Director, Sarah Richardt, began in late April. Since that time, a new Program Coordinator has also been hired. New programs and increased attendance have been reported by Commissioner Poskocil, and she continued to report 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 Historic Preservation 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rita M. Schneider". To the right of the signature, the words "per TCU" are written in a similar cursive style.

Rita M. Schneider, Chairperson
Brigitte O'Brien, Vice-Chairperson
Lyn Myers, Secretary
Richard Anstee
Thomas Fettes
Jennifer Henaghan
Jack Jones
Eileen Mueller
Marcy Novak
Patricia Poskocil
Stephanie Zabela