

**TOWN OF WESTPORT
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

Kennedy Administration Building
Community Meeting Room
5387 Mary Lake Road
Town of Westport, Wisconsin

Minutes – February 02, 2023

Members Present: Pichette, Moore, Werner, Wing, Will, Absent: Hermanson

Public Present: (none)

Meeting called to order at 6:04 pm

Public comment on matters not on the agenda: none.

Motion to approve minutes from January 05, 2023, made by Werner, second by Will, motion approved unanimously, with addendum to edit incorrect pluralized version of Tracy Will (last name)

Public Hearing: 5360 Westport Road (Hanson's Tavern / Nau-Ti-Gal Property)

Application for Town Historical Designation:

Comments on process; Pichette briefly recapped the process and proceedings, asking members if they had any follow-up commentary from hearing. Members mentioned they felt (overall) the process went reasonably well, noting support from Town staff and legal counsel, and appreciation for time from public and the applicants, some who had traveled from out of state. Members did note that there seemed to be some confusion from some members of public as to specifics of hearing and felt it might be best (in future), if HPC could provide a summary at beginning, which may help clear up any confusion. Moore noted that it may be beneficial for Town staff to utilize social media to address hearing details more clearly before hearings as not all Town residents follow other sources. Wing noted her historical report should be included with process going forward so Plan Commission, Town Board have proper baseline for history developed by HPC. Pichette noted that there was request made from landowner to delay review of historical application by other commissions until later this year, due to their schedule and availability. HPC members did not support this, and felt the proceedings should move forward as planned, and in a timely manner, as not to extend beyond any timing stipulations if designation was to move ahead. Members requested Pichette share the feelings of the HPC at the next Town Board meeting.

Information from Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS): (via Jason Trish – CLG

Coordinator):

Pichette noted Trish reached out during review of application, and noted the WHS could assist in review if needed. Trish noted that WHS should receive copy of HPC minutes following each meeting, and the HPC should submit an annual report. Pichette will fill out report. Trish recommended Town review grant opportunities and considered (if relevant) applying for a grant (ex: historic properties, State marker). Pichette will ask Trish to come in to future HPC meeting, and provide overview of CLG, and review functions and purview of a CLG historic preservation commission(s), which members felt would be helpful.

Mill Road Sign:

Pichette provided update, noting that now perhaps now HPC can move ahead with sign, as (Town) sign standards have been approved by Town Board. Members discussed where project was left, and questioned what work would be left to do. Determination will need to be made on how many signs might be needed. Stones; There are old stones there, may or may not be part of Mill?

State Marker:

Update from Pichette; State working on marker, should have approval in a month, and then there is 8-month state backlog.

Don Sanford projects:

Good turnout at last presentation, members considered a possible follow-up presentation, possibly early April, late March. Pichette will ask Town staff to have him back.

Misc. Discussion:

- Cabin; Early cabin still exists on other farm property (was moved), HPC could explore seeing interests in saving and gaging interest in moving to Governor Nelson State Park.
- Town Historical Map / Signs; Members revisited the benefits of setting up a map of Town historic locations, which could help identify and signs could be added later.
- HPC Document Storage; Need to determine this, (Wing) We could see about working with Waunakee library, as they have system and staff to digitize. We should have way to digitize and review documents online (Wing), members agreed.
- (Pichette) provided general update on Town Boards / Commissions considerations, following Ken Sipsma's passing.
- Waunakee ETZ: Tierney family maintains Montondon site, Tierney asked what happens if they no longer would take care of it?
- (Wing) Shared information she found about St. Mary's Parish (Waukesha); Was put on Historic register as mid-century modern (MCM) example, which could be of interest to HPC, as we have two churches that might be considered MCM (ex: Holy Wisdom, St. Mary of the Lake), one thing noted was importance of the stained glass windows, which tell the story of Westport history too at St. Mary of the Lake.

Motion to adjourn Werner, seconded Will. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

The next HPC meeting is on March 2nd, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Moore, Commission Secretary