

**TOWN OF WESTPORT  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

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

Minutes May 4th, 2023

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

Public Present: none

Meeting called to order at 6:01 pm. No public comment on matters not on the agenda.

Motion to approve minutes from April 6th, 2023, made by Will, seconded by Werner, motion approved unanimously.

State Historic Marker

- No further updates available, as Pichette emailed Fitzie Heimdahl again with no response.

EWV Site

- Pichette reported there is no further information from Town staff on site updates. HPC requesting Dean Grosskopf (or Town staff) make a formal recommendation as to timeline as to what may, or may not, be doable at site at this point – HPC will remove from future agendas if nothing can happen at site.

Document Storage

Nothing to report.

Misc. Matters not on agenda

(Pichette) - Updates on HPC membership; Pichette noted membership changes; Michele Wing has left HPC, and this will be the last meeting for Jeanette Hermanson. HPC members noted their sincere thanks and appreciation for the time and service of Michele Wing, and for the time and service over many years, of Jeanette Hermanson. Pichette noted potential new member(s) joining the process in coming weeks.

Ziegler Dairy Farm LLC, 5428 County Hwy Q: Property owners had conditional Plan Commission approval for recent rezone request, which included keeping remaining historic barn in place. Owner returned to Town with request to now raze barn, as he states it is in too poor condition to remain. HPC agreed a representative would visit barn and report back on condition to make assessment. HPC member Tracy Will reviewed barn condition, and provided a report back to HPC members stating that the barn is, in fact, at a level of disrepair that does not warrant saving. Will noted the following in his report.

- Sill beams are badly rotted out.
- The lower level in very poor shape.
- Considerable amount of UV damage to sheathing
- West side had boards torn away from west side and sill plate is rotted out, not original and probably not worth saving.
- The floor is rotted out in many parts.
- Noted that member of Reis family (past family that owned farm) said she could recycle and reuse all posts and beams in barn.
- Estimated original barn may be ~1870's or 1880's, although alterations from past ownership were noted.

Following review, it was the assessment of Tracy Will and Dean Grosskopf, that barn is beyond the point of saving.

HPC Members voted unanimously to allow the owner to raze the barn, per condition being beyond repair.

Members noted they liked the idea that parts would be given to someone else, which was noted, Reis family members.

Further discussion: Members discussed possibility of consideration at Town level, for making a Town policy that remaining barns should have thorough and complete review, as Westport is known for its rural and agrarian character and these barns are a part of our heritage and landscape. Moore asked if there might be a way to integrate costs for saving back into development proposed that effected barns (for example). Members discussed costs associated with saving barns, and noted it may be worth discussing if the Town do something to incentivize barn prep (for example, property tax incentives?)

#### 5360 Westport Rd, (former Nau-Ti-Gal, Hansen's Tavern):

Pichette updated HPC members that Town Board voted to approve historical designation for property, following recommendation from HPC and subsequent Plan Commission approval.

#### Misc. Matters not on Agenda

Town Board updates:

- Pichette brought up a request for a historic survey, (Pichette) would like to write proposal for historic survey grant funding - Could either be someone on HPC, or a student.

Discussion on potential new HPC projects: Moore suggested map or list of Town historic sites would be good to advance, and Members agreed, Pichette to send Moore previous existing list.

Changes in HPC membership: Pichette noted Michelle Wing has ended her term on HPC, and Jeanette Hermanson will also be ending term following this evening's meeting. Wing's documents have been shared, Werner and Pichette will review. HPC members noted appreciation for Wing's service and efforts on HPC during her term and thanked and noted appreciation for Hermanson's service and time on HPC, which has been over many years.

#### Misc. Forthcoming Events

Will not be able to attend July or Sept. meetings, Moore not available July meeting either.

Motion to adjourn Hermanson, seconded Moore.

Meeting adjourned at 7:11pm

The next HPC meeting is on June 1st, 2023.

Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Chris Moore, Commission Secretary