

**TOWN OF WESTPORT
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING**

Kennedy Administration Building
Community Meeting Room
5387 Mary Lake Road
Waunakee, WI 53597

MINUTES of December 6, 2018

Members present: Mimi Bloch, Janette Hermanson, Ray Mejia, Joe Pichette, Nancy Schlinggen

Public present: Rebecca Bernstein, Historical Resources Consultant

Rosa Ropers, President of Friends of Schumacher Farm

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at approximately 6:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Joe to approve Minutes for November 1st. Mimi seconded and Members concur.

NEW BUSINESS

Future Ella Wheeler Wilcox (EWW) County Park Development Update

Completion of EWW Park is HPC's Priority Focus. However, Rebecca Bernstein, our Historic Resources Consultant, has recently e-mailed the Dane County's Park's Director, Darren Marsh to see if HPC can move forward with park, path and foundation plans or work with the Park's Landscape Designer on the EWW Park while the contract for site rehabilitation to include installing prairie and pollinator plants is being monitored for the next 5 years by the Solid Waste Division of the Public Works Department according to Allison Rathack, Special Projects and Materials Manager before transferring land management to the Parks Division of the County's Land and Water Resources Department.

An aside: Schumacher Farm according to Rosa is also participating in pollinator plantings and management through grant funding with Mindy Habecker's Coordinating for Dane County, which may include involving children's groups and others.

Identifying and Prioritizing Westport Properties of Historical and Archeological Significance

Rebecca will send the proposal to Ray for the "windshield" survey in creating Westport's Historic and Archaeological Cultural Resources Map. Ray offers HPC support of the process after inquiring about the accurate scope and comprehensive nature of the project. Ray will confer with Rebecca and with Tom Wilson, Westport Administrator concerning funding to move this project forward.

Two versions of the map: a draft and clean copy will be created reflective of a drive by (or Joe mentioned a boat ride along the lake shore). Does the built environment look historic (50 years or older as clarified by Rebecca when asked by Mimi), its integrity and if it is compatible with other buildings? The color-coded map possibly in green may serve as a visual aid to identify older buildings that have not changed too much, unaltered property e. g. a farmstead unit.

Mimi questioned if this map would *be useful*? Rebecca responded that *it would be useful in that it should highlight that it is still there*. Mimi thought HPC should go forward with this proposal since it could potentially assist with development. While it would not be legally required, it is more likely to increase awareness to inform discussion of guidelines and a reference for continuity in architecture and/or of an area like the Military Ridge Path (that could be kept) in planning and permits as noted by Joe.

Rosa asked how Rebecca decided on 50 years as *historic*? Rebecca stated that *50 years is the standard for eligibility for National Register of Historic Places and at the State level it reflects that time also*. She mentioned an exception was given of a Frank Lloyd Wright structure that might of been built more recently than that.

A later approach could be a survey from the ground with more site analysis. Interpreting Westport's Historical and Archaeological Sites is another option after the map is created.

Tom contacted Rebecca that Mary Woodburn a homeowner is coming to HPC, (as an example as HPC providing a public outreach service) to help research and document her Breuch Family History. Located on Highway 19 and River Road near the anticipated round-about. A public display board could be created and possible landmark designation.

Summary History of Oncken Farmstead Draft for HPC review

Rebecca will resend a more complete report with changes for HPC members to review. She noted that while not created as a local landmark proposal, she did use a local landmark format.

Joe noted a firestone, ceramic, solo, low silo accessed off of Highway Q, visible only in winter. While it no longer has it's surrounding landscape context, it may still offer *a sense of place*. Rebecca thought HPC may at sometime want to create a statement of intent to preserve this site.

HPC Speaker Series at Senior Center Spring and Fall 2019—Speaker Selection

- On Friday April 5th 2019 at 2 pm Donald Sanford: Author of *On Fourth Lake: A Social History of Lake Mendota* with highlights of our Westport vicinity in his presentation.

Potential other fall of 2019 speakers were discussed, especially if EWW progress is on hold. Joe mentioned Stu Levitan: *Madison in the 60's* book. He also mentioned the topics of the Blackhawk War, Fort Winnebago. or the Indian Trail.

Rebecca brought up the need for effigy mound interpretation in the area—someplace to refer people to in the area. Mimi mention having someone that could represent the Ho-Chunk Nation. Rebecca included Patty Lowe's name as a possible speaker and that the Wisconsin State Historical Society has a liaison with tribes that could be a resource for authentic sources. Nancy mentioned Gary Maier from Westport as a possible speaker and his book: *Eagles Voices: Tales told by the Effigy Mounds* (of this vicinity). If two speakers were used they could likely each be a program or collaborate if details can be worked out. Mimi offered to research these ideas with Nancy. Rosa mentioned that Dane County Park's United event had a representative of the Ho-Chunk Nation that Rea Stangel-Maier as Volunteer Coordinator and event planner, likely has

that person's contact information.

HPC Social Media Presence through Website Development

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Joe shared intention of *Design Guidelines* and impact on Westport. Next is a public informational meeting to take feedback and then revise if changes. Ratification by the board will follow to strongly suggest what the Town wants in order to maintain its rural and small town character.

Historic Preservation End of the Year Status Report as presented by Rebecca Bernstein attached.

NEXT MEETING and AGENDA ITEMS

Future EWW Park Development Update

Potential Signage and Other Collaboration with Schumacher Farm County Park
Identifying and Prioritizing Westport Properties of Historical and Archaeological Significance
Westport's Historical and Archaeological Cultural Resources—

HPC Map

Interpretation

Oncken Farmstead History

HPC Speaker Series for Senior Center

HPC Social Media Presence through Website Development

Facebook Page Creation

Senior Thesis Connecting HPC with Social Media Proposal

The Historic Preservation Commission meets the first Thursday of each month, unless otherwise stated at 6 p.m. in the Community Meeting Room of the Town Center.

Note: HPC will not meet in January! The next meeting is on February 7, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT

Ray motioned to adjourn with all in favor. Meeting adjourned at ~7:20 p.m.

Town of Westport Historic Preservation Commission
December 6, 2018

Projects Completed:

Documentation of 10 Properties, survey forms in 2 binders

Town Hall Display Panels

- 2 summarizing 10 property survey

- 1 about Ella Wheeler Wilcox

- 1 about Schumacher Farm and Marcella Schumacher Pendall

Public Archeology Dig at Ella Wheeler Wilcox home site

2 Open Houses

Archeology Driving Tour

2 Lectures at Senior Center (Bob Birmingham, Roger Bindl)

Projects in Process:

Ella Wheeler Wilcox Homesite

- Conservation Park Plan

- Arc-of-Life markers

- three written, designed, and manufactured

- 2 in design process - need editing, manufacturing

- Determine mounting method (Post, Bracket) and vendor

- Installation locations

- EWV Shelter

- Design

- Construct and Install

- Ella Wheeler Wilcox history/natural history panels to be installed in shelter

- Determine size based on shelter dimensions

- Research

- Text, Images

- Design

- Manufacture and Install

Silo Survey

- Missing from Bindl's map?

- Respond to interested residents

- Document "stand alone" silos

- Research successful adaptive reuse of silos

(Projects in Progress, cont)

Holy Wisdom Barn

- Complete documentation (photography done)

Louis Siberz properties survey

- Research LS in Westport

- Photography complete

- Compile documentation

Bishop's Bay Club House

- Photography complete

- Research ownership and design history

- Compile documentation

Oncken Farm

- Photography complete

- Research complete

- Final draft to be completed

- Local Landmark nomination

Lake properties survey

- Determine neighborhood groupings

- Contact residents

- Conduct research

- Survey photography has been done...update?

- Compile documentation

- Display panel for Town Hall?

Compile Military Road information

Compile Native American Settlement and Activity information

Future Projects

General Survey

Revisit driving survey - Windshield Survey and Map

Note properties at risk or to prioritize (there are some farmsteads that should be looked at if possible, also, recontact Laufenbergs in west side of township - see if interested now in participating in the Survey)

Public Presentations (on-going)

Presentations at Waunakee Senior Center (Spring '19 Don Sanford; future topics: Ella Wheeler Wilcox, Statz Site, Military/Native American Trail, Mound building, Architectural styles of Westport)

Historic Preservation Commission Website

Photograph/artifact collection and display

Breuch Farm on 19 and River Road

Interest in documentation, public display board, possible local landmark designation