

TOWN OF WESTPORT
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Kennedy Administration Building
Community Meeting Room
5387 Mary Lake Road
Town of Westport, Wisconsin

Minutes – July 7, 2022

Members Present: Joe Pichette, Neal Werner, Tracy Wills, Michelle Wing, Janette Hermanson Absent: Chris Moore Public Present: None

Meeting called to order by Pichette at 6:00 p.m. Motion by Wills to approve the June 2, 2022, minutes, seconded Werner, motion approved.

Public comments / Nau-Ti-Gal (Hanson's) site:

- Pichette shared a brief discussion he had with the Town Administrator regarding how the HPC could possibly move forward regarding the evaluation of the history of the building. The Town has not worked on the preservation of historic features in the Town without the support of the owner. The HPC was instructed to work on documenting the history of the site only, i.e., record the Town's history, and preservation only at the request of the land/property owner. After a lengthy discussion by HPC members, Wing offered the Town of Westport code of ordinances 10-7-7(b) & (c). It is the understanding of the HPC that the process of declaring a historic site in the Town is clearly expressed in the Town Ordinances. Several members of the HPC have had discussions with Town residents who have asked what could be done to preserve the site. The HPC would like legal clarification of the Town Ordinances as the HPC believes instructions given by Town Chairperson are not clear and appear to be inconsistent with the Town Ordinances discussed and listed above.
- The Hanson family at the June HPC meeting, shared some documents they had from the past 100+ years of the site when it was run by the Hanson family. Wills cataloged the documents and returned them to HPC.
- The Hanson family has requested the documents be returned. The Hanson Family has also discussed with several HPC members the desire to start the process of declaring the site a historic building/site. The town has a document for requesting such action. Wing will return the Hanson family documents and the Town form for requesting a historic designation of a site.

State Marker Application Status: Pichette has sent an email requesting an update on the application, but no response has been received from the State.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox (EWW) site: Pichette did not have an update from Town staff.

Home on River Road: Potential consideration research on older home on River Road, HPC tabled this for August meeting.

Misc. matters not on agenda:

- Pichette discussed the ancient tree/art on Westport Road that fell during a recent storm. After discussion, it is requested for town staff to retrieve the tree and secure it safely at the town service building(s). The HPC would like to get a professional opinion/evaluation of the tree/art with possible ways the tree may be preserved as art at the town hall and the costs to do so. Wills commented that the artist used for the tree was a veteran and a member of the Ho-Chunk Nation.
- Wing asked about historic oak trees on potential development land near Webcrafters. HPC asks these trees to be considered during the potential planning of the site.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:40 PM Motion by Wills 2nd by Hermanson.