

**TOWN OF WESTPORT
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

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

Minutes – September 1, 2022

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

Members Absent: None. Public Present: None

Meeting called to order at 6:03 pm

Motion to approve minutes from the last meeting, with noted correction of the spelling of HPC member Tracy Will's name (*incorrectly spelled the last name as "Wills", should be "Will"*)

Motion by Hermanson to approve, Seconded by Will, motion approved.

Public comment on matters not on the agenda: none

Discussion on Hansen's Tavern / Nau-Ti-Gal property:

- Town received an application from the Hansen family for Town historical designation. The application was reviewed by HPC. HPC noted receipt of the application at the meeting and officially accepted the application for review, subject to Town procedure. Pichette shared that HPC was advised by the Town council (not present) that there may be 240-day review period timeline, which should be noted as beginning upon HPC's acceptance of the application on 09/01/2022.
- Pichette updated HPC members on conversations with Towns staff regarding the procedure for application review. HPC was advised to discuss and formalize any questions they may have regarding the procedure for review of historical designation application, and submit to the Town for clarification, as needed. Members noted procedure may include a public hearing and discussed possible dates based on expected review and information gathering timelines. HPC members agreed they would like to see a public hearing in November 2022, which allows adequate time for the review of the process, as well as research by HPC to be compiled.
- Members noted some HPC research on the property has been done already and discussed possible additional sources of information to determine aspects of property/site history, which could include tax reports, and Dane county restaurant information. Members will also contact the Hansen family to determine if they have any additional assets (e.g.; photographs) that may be useful points of reference.
- Pichette noted HPC is allowed special meetings if deemed advisable given the timely nature of the process

Old Tree on Westport Rd.:

- Pichette reported on the Town Board review of the HPC discussion regarding possible next steps; Town Board was not in favor of soliciting public interest openly via social media, Board preferred the idea of RFP / RFQ with a deadline. HPC discussed further, and agreed next steps should be a tiered approach, wherein; HPC requests Town staff remove the remaining sculpture sections from their current location, and secure them in a

safe place; Concurrently, Will will contact Kohler art foundation to explore any possible interest in the project, if Kohler is not interested or able to support, then Town could move to create RFP / RFQ, and if no bidder is awarded, HPC can then make a decision about integrating portion or section in some type of signage element for preservation.

- Members noted the artist was Alberto Chavez, a chainsaw sculptor

State Marker Application (update):

- Pichette updated HPC; Fizzie Heimdahl (State Historical Markers Program Coordinator) thought WHS would get the application processed in the month of September. Pichette hopes to have a report (update) by October. Based on the timeline and pending winter season, Pichette noted it is likely that no sign will be installed this year.

EWV Site (update):

- No updates, Moore / Pichette to follow up with Town staff on the relative condition

Plan Commission

- *No recommendations*

Misc. matters not on agenda:

- Mary Mannering is interested in seeking Wisconsin Rustic Road designation for Bong Road. HPC is in support of efforts but has limited resources to work directly on the project.
- Pichette noted Town staff verification of terms for HPC members currently serving. Term information shared was consistent with current serving members' understanding of their respective terms.

Motion to adjourn Hermanson, motion seconded Moore

Meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm

Next HPC meeting; October 6th, 2022

Minutes prepared by Chris Moore