

Historical District Commission Meeting
Wednesday January 7th

In attendance: Larry Ahleman, Mark Reile, Katie, vanLonkhuyzen, Suzanne Nemeth, Christine Broberg, Erica Eklov

Excused Absences: Russ Randall, Jamie Jager, Amanda Croft, Fred Grunert and Jim Ebert

Meeting was held at the property located at 6851 Sprinkle which is owned by Mick Lynch. He was a gracious host spoiling the commission with donuts, muffins, and bagels.

We began the meeting with introductions as it was Larry's first meeting. Then we discussed old business.

1521 Centre: Erica received communication that permits have been pulled for the demolition of the barn. The owners are still gathering other quotes and options to replace the building with a like structure within their means. There was discussion on their perceived unwillingness to replace the barn with our requirements, when it was known prior to the purchase of the property that the barn would require significant work.

2663 Mandigo: The owner is to appear for a court hearing on January 12, 2015 for the code enforcement that is in effect. To date there has not been any noticeable work done to the property.

3221 W. Milham: The owner has not completed the work to the house nor started any work on the barn. This owner has also been ordered to appear in court for the code enforcement that remains in effect.

3821 W. Milham: The Commission has received information from the owner that the field area on this property may be requested to be sectioned off from the property for development of an assisted living community. At this time there is no action needed, but in the future a study committee may need to be formed.

Mark shared his experience with the City Council regarding the Commission's concerns with the district. He felt our concerns were heard, and that specifically requesting a line item in the City's budget may have been what got them to hear us. As a result, the City Manager is going to work with Erica on how we would manage funds should the City agree to give us a budget. It was suggested by Katie to give a tax credit instead of direct funds to historical property owners so that there is an incentive to the home owner to maintain their property not let it get into disrepair and the Commission comes along and fixes it for them. Larry also suggested that people who want to maintain their properties, but don't have the means that maybe the City could hire high school and college aged kids to assist with painting or property clean up.

We toured the building and adjourned about 9:45 a.m.