

City of Portage – Historic District Commission
Wednesday – April 4, 2016
Portage City Hall – Conference Room #2
Regular Meeting

Meeting called to order at 8:20 AM.

Present: K. VanLonkhuyzen, S. Nemeth, C. Forrest, J. Lotz, J. Duniphin, R. Randall, J. Ebert, F. Grunert, M. Maytnier, E. Eklov

Absent: None

Old Business:

Approval of meeting minutes from March 2, 2016.

3221 W. Milham – Nieuwenhuis/Barn

- Mr. Nieuwenhuis appeared before the Zoning Board of Appeals with the proposal for replacing the original barn with a new structure heard by the HDC on March 2, 2016. The ZBA outlined the size of the new structure due to an open-ended application, as well as a 120-day window to deconstruct the barn. The ZBA confirmed Mr. Nieuwenhuis' requirement to report back to the HDC on the actual materials reusable. Final design will be relayed to the HDC.

5720 Oakland – Vergunst/Barn

- Granted a Certificate of Approval on July 8, 2015.
- Owner called to ask for help in reconstructing new barn using approved materials.
- HCD to mention the possibility of using some of the salvaged materials from the tear down of the original barn at 3221 W. Milham.

2663 Mandingo – Kiley

- Buyer has asked for information about owning an historic property.
- What would need to be brought up to code?
- What has happened to the court date for the code enforcement?
- Code enforcement with Community Development remains open.
- At present, there is no one living on the property.

1521 E. Centre – Davis/Selinon Park Development

- City Council approved the Selinon Park project.
- HDC needs to contact the developers, Full Circle Communities, to ask what they have decided to do about replacing the barn that was originally on the property.

- At the HDC meeting on February 3, 2016, the possibility of moving a barn from a location down the street that is very near to 1521 was mentioned.

10234 East Shore – Gien

- No news

New Business:

1) HDC Goals and Objectives for 2016/2017 sent out with meeting minutes were discussed and approved. J. Lotz mentioned that he would like to see that at least 2 goals and objectives were implemented.

2) C. Forrest reported that he had attended the Home Expo, and he felt that this event is about sales of services and materials for new properties. C. Forrest will also attend the Old Home Expo later this year to see if there are possibilities for community outreach.

3) HDC talked about submitting an article to the Portager about the Goals and Objectives of the HDC was discussed. J. Duniphin has volunteered to write an article.

4) Discussion of holding an HDC sponsored event during May, which is Preservation Month. It was decided to find out if Steve Stier of Reconstruction (barn restoration specialist) from Lansing would come to talk about barns.

5) Discussion of participation in Green-A-Thon on April 23, 2016. Several of the committee members volunteered to man a table in front of the Schoolhouse and distribute HDC materials.

6) Discussion for planning an event for May of 2017 around HDC goals and objectives. M. Maytnier presented materials describing "If These Stones Could Talk", an annual event held in Marshall where prominent former citizens of Marshall are portrayed by local actors. It was proposed that one Portage historical property, 3821 Milham would be a good one to begin with. A very colorful character named VanRiper/Cully Gage was one of the original residents. M. Maytnier and J. Duniphin volunteered to work on a script. J. Lotz volunteered to contact local high school Drama departments to see if it would be possible to find a student interested in portraying former residents of 3821 W. Milham.

7) Discussion about the role of Property Inspectors. Should these inspectors use HDC checklist? E. Eklov to issue a report.

Meeting adjourned at 9:32.

Respectfully submitted: Martha Deming Maytnier/ Secretary