

**City of Portage
Historic District Commission**

Portage City Hall
Conference Room #2
Wednesday, May 3, 2017

Meeting called to order: 8:20 AM by Vice-President Suzanne Nemeth

Present: S. Nemeth, J. Duniphin, D. Dalton, M. Barton, F. Grunert, K. VanLonkhuyzen, C. Forrest, E. Eklov, M. Maytnier

Guest: Mick Lynch

Announcement: Charles Wiles has resigned from HDC due to conflicting obligations.

Minutes from April 5th approved with one correction.

Old Business:

No Property reports from members.

Open Cases:

2112 Vanderbilt/McCarthy

- Roof is being redone without review.
- Some concern that the materials being used are not historically appropriate.

3221 Milham/Nieuwenhuis

- Work on new barn is progressing.

2663 Mandigo/Kiley

- Another neighborhood complaint about the condition of the property.
- Buildings are becoming hazardous.
- Concern about vagrants being seen on property.
- Unable to locate owner.
- Fines on-going.

Green-A-Thon Report:

- Event appears to be growing.
- Better turn out this year.
- Thanks to HDC volunteers who turned out to help.
- Plan for next year.

May 18th Restoration for a New Era event:

- Sponsor Mick Lynch is providing a tent with tables and chairs.
- Latitude 42 catering underwritten by Mick.
- 10 mini-expo participants.
- Jessie passed around a map with the locations for:
Tent placement.
Vendor drop-off location.
Location of Rest Rooms and Handicapped Parking.

Jessie will send out maps and instructions for mini-expo vendors.

Erica will provide roadside signage.

Home tours:

- 3 buildings will be open for visitors: 1892 Queen Anne, 1859 Greek Revival, and 1867 original farmhouse.
- Need 3 volunteers from HDC. One for each house.
- Some of Mick's family members will be on hand to help with tours.
- Mick will provide talking points for each house.
- Mick will also provide information boards with photos for each house.

Other details:

- Jessie will have name tags for all HDC members.
- HDC members will wear something red to help identify us.
- Jessie has sign-up sheet for volunteer locations.
- HDC table will have Historic District booklets and cards available, as well as information on Historic District regulations.
- Erica will take photographs.

HDC members are asked to arrive on site by 4:00 PM, and be prepared to help with the set-up and take down of exhibits and signage.

Other news:

Erica will be going checking with Community Development for bi-annual building inspections.

The Drake House in Oshtemo is holding official kick-off open house to inform the public about future planned improvement to the house and grounds on Thursday the 18th at 10:00 AM. HDC Board members are welcome.

District 8 Schoolhouse located in Celery Flats Bicentennial Park, has been given a \$250 award from the One-Room-School House Association. The money will be incorporated into the city budget for park service.

New Business:

5720 Oakland/ Vergunst barn.

- A building inspection has declared the building unsafe.
- Open 2015 application before the HDC has been denied.
- Homeowner has been asked to re-apply specifically for barn.
- If the barn is torn down, some materials can be saved to use elsewhere.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted: Martha Deming Maytnier/Recording Secretary.