

City of Portage
Historic District Commission
Portage City Hall
Conference Rm #1
Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Special Meeting: Demolition of buildings on 2663 Mandigo

Meeting called to order: 9:00 AM

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

Absent: None.

Guests: Laura and Keith Bouw; Kalamazoo County Chief Deputy Treasurer Megan Buwalda

Laura spoke on behalf of her father Mick Lynch who was unable to attend. She relayed that in his opinion, none of the historic buildings are beyond repair, and all efforts should be made to save these buildings. At the time of Historic Property designation, this was a Centennial farm. The property and remaining historic buildings retain the environment of a farm from the 1800's, and is one of the only 2 remaining examples still existing in Portage.

Megan spoke on behalf of the Land Bank Authority. The Land Bank currently has a grant for funds to be used for demolition. The goal of this grant is to reduce blight. The current grant is 9 months. Other Kalamazoo County properties are also part of this demolition grant. This demolition grant transfers ownership of the property to the Land Bank which is part of the Kalamazoo County Treasurer's Office.

Notice of demolition is based on an assessment that the property is a significant hazard to the community.

HDC committee member Mike Barton has been involved in saving several buildings in similar disrepair. From an external examination of the home, he could not see any existing damage that could not be repaired.

A motion was made and approved to adjourn the Public Hearing pending professional opinions from:

- 1) A qualified opinion on the cost and feasibility of restoration from an architect specializing in historic properties.
- 2) A qualified opinion from a building contractor on the current safety of the buildings and the cost to stabilize buildings prior to restoration.

Next Public Hearing on 2663 Mandigo will depend on clarifying funding for expert opinion and on how quickly the reports from the inspections are done. Tentatively set to follow the regular HDC meeting on October 4th. Erica asked Megan to contact her with any questions and keep her updated on the status of the information requested for meeting scheduling.

Meeting adjourned: 9:50 AM

Respectfully submitted: Martha Deming Maytnier/Recording Secretary