

HISTORIC PROPERTIES BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

January 15, 2009

Town Historian, Mickey Oliver called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. The following were in attendance: Town Historian Mickey Oliver, Town Supervisor Mary Beth Murphy, Town Curator/Administrator Terry Ariano, Historical Society President Emil Antonaccio, Architectural Review Board Member Ken Bond and Parks & Recreation Board Vice Chairman Jim Papa.

MINUTES

Mr. Antonaccio made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 20, 2008 meeting. Mr. Papa seconded the motion. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Wright-Reis Homestead

Carpentry Repairs on Outbuildings - Mrs. Ariano met with a carpenter from Tecumseh Woodworking regarding repairs needed to the outbuildings at the Homestead. A proposal was prepared and copies given to all members. At this point in time, it appears that the horse barn is the most critical in terms of work that needs to be done. Replacement and repair work needs to be done to some of the posts and girts. Unfortunately the cost to do this work is very expensive and funds are not available.

Report from Conservator - All members were given the final report prepared by Paul Himmelstein.

Gate - Garon Fence installed a 14 foot double farm style gate at the border of the Homestead and Reis Park. Mr. Antonaccio had a picture to share with the Board. No Trespassing signs are now needed. The new ones should be rectangular in shape. Mr. Antonaccio had a picture of one that exists now. Perhaps the wording should be changed a bit. Mr. Papa will compare it to what the No Trespassing signs say that are in the park now. The location of the three signs needed are as follows: on the new gate, at the top of the Homestead driveway and on Sunderland Lane. Mr. Papa will ask the Parks and Recreation maintenance staff if they could place two posts on top of the driveway for that sign. Mr. Antonaccio will pick up some chain. In addition, a change needs to be made to the sign at the border of Reis Park and the Homestead, the directional arrow pointing toward the Homestead has to be removed. Mr. Papa will make arrangements to have that done by the Parks and Recreation maintenance staff.

Mt. Zion

There was nothing new to report this month.

Tomahawk Church and Cemetery

The total budget for maintenance/repair to Mt. Zion, Tomahawk Church and the Wright-Reis Homestead is \$26,600; and the appropriation is \$6,000, \$6,600 and \$14,000 respectively. The Tomahawk Church and Cemetery is in desperate need of repair and those funds could easily be used just for that site and wouldn't come close to covering all the work that needs to be done. Mrs. Ariano has been diligently exploring grants that are available. Since restoration is not an option in terms of affordability, Mr. Bond has suggested that the building be treated as a repair, rather than a restoration and efforts be made to make it weather tight. Mr. Bond graciously offered to visit the site, and will prepare a report prioritizing the work that needs to be done.

As a result of a request made at the meeting in November, Lincoln Dale Landscaping gave a proposal of \$2,500 to do tree work, remove the tulip tree, locust tree, dead and leaning trees and trim what is against the building. Mrs. Murphy asked Mrs. Ariano to get two more proposals and then move forward with the procedures to complete this project. Mrs. Ariano is also asking the three Boy Scout troops in Town if one of them would be willing to "adopt" the church and cemetery and maintain/clean it on a regular basis.

Elephant Hotel

Specs for Windows - Three proposals were received for writing the window restoration specifications. Mr. Bond reviewed them and made a recommendation that the Town Board discussed at their December 4 meeting. The project was approved, but Mrs. Murphy had to check with Senator Leibell's office to see if the grant funds were still available. She recently received a call regarding the project, so hopefully things are moving along.

Elephant Hotel Sign - Monarch, an artisan painter submitted a proposal that was approved at the November 13 Town Board meeting to repaint the lettering on the front of the hotel. State grant money will be used. The project will be completed in the spring.

NEW BUSINESS

Sugar Maple Behind Homestead Dairy Barn - Mrs. Ariano received an email from Park Foreman Steve Ernst regarding the sugar maple behind the Homestead dairy barn. He indicated that although it is not an immediate threat and is cabled, it is an old tree and will need to be taken down sometime in the

near future. Mrs. Ariano will ask George Wahlers, owner of Lincolnale Landscaping to give an opinion of the situation, and if something does in fact need to be done, an estimate as well.

Fedele Letter - A memo was received from the Building Inspector regarding the old historic house on the Fedele property on Route 139. There has not been an update on moving, demolishing, etc. the house in almost a year. Unfortunately the Town's attempts in trying to find a resource to move it to Town owned property was unsuccessful.

Second Entrance in Meeting Room - Mrs. Ariano had heard that the Court had received a grant to install an emergency door for the judges on the east side of the podium in the Courtroom. Mrs. Murphy concurred that they had and she will update the Board as soon as she hears anything new on the matter.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 19 at 4:30 p.m. in the Map Room at the Town House.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Historic Properties Board

cc: Historic Properties Board
Historical Society
Town Clerk