

MINUTES
OF
MOUNT VERNON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
December 16, 2020

The Historic Preservation Commission met via Zoom on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. Members present on Zoom were Leah Rogers, Janet Budack, Donnie Moore, Suzette Astley, Duane Eash, Susan Hargus, Mary Evans, Grace Chamberlain, and Guy Booth. Also present was Angie Bauman Power, who has recently been appointed to the HPC. Guests present were Scott Ladwig, Cari Morgan, Adam Bastjan, Chad Bloedel, and Amy Clouse from Cornell and on behalf of Cornell. Hugh Lifson was also present for the zoom meeting.

Upon motion duly seconded, The Minutes of the meeting of December 5, 2020 were approved.

Cornell has asked for a design review of the Norton Geology building radon mitigation project. The Commission has previously approved the mitigation pipe that was needed for Radon mitigation. It has been determined that an additional mitigation pipe is needed for the southwest side of the building. Discussion included inquiry as to how to best have the additional pipe blend into the building. It was suggested it could be black, which would then be similar to the spiral fire escape in that portion of the building. After discussion, it was determined that it may be more appropriate to have this mitigation pipe be similar to the pipe that will be on the other side of the building. Cornell will have the pipes matched in color. Upon motion made by Suzette Astley, seconded by Susan Hargus, a motion for a certificate of no material effect was approved.

In addition to the design review request, Cornell has also asked for a pre-review conference. Scott Ladwig indicates that the addition to and improvements of the fieldhouse is continuing. He introduced Cornell representatives which included Cari Morgan, Adam Bastjan, Chad Bloedel and Amy Clouse. Adam detailed changes that have been suggested since our last pre-review of this project. In an attempt to keep the project within budget, the new addition has been scaled back in two areas. Most of the interior features remain the same, but some of the exterior features have been changed. Adam gave a very good review of how this building will become more accessible and available to the entire college community. He gave an update on the overall plan design, the exterior plan, the landscaping, the roof, and the exterior portion of the plan, including a change of the exterior finish and the windows. The intent of the architect is to have this building fit within the design of the entire campus, and to make the building more open to everyone. The suggested changes were all appropriate. Questions from the Commission included the reason for the change of some exterior finishing, and in particular, what would be happening to the plaques which depict the men's sports that were part of the athletic program in the 1950's when the building was constructed. Adam explained that these plaques will be removed, as part of the new addition will be replacing the current front of the building. Cornell wants to retain these plaques and get them safely stored until a decision can be made regarding their display. An interesting discussion took place regarding the use of a digital display area, which could include copies of the plaques, as well as contemporary depiction of the athletic program at Cornell. Adam was pleased to receive the questions and opinions of the Commission as Cornell continues to move toward final plans. This project will be brought before the Commission once the application for building permit has been completed, and the plans are in

final form. Adam appreciated the observations of Hugh regarding retaining the history of the building wherever possible. HPC agrees that historical artifacts of the building should be retained and should be available for display in the future.

Under old business, Guy Booth indicated that he had received a response from Kevin Woods and the American Legion regarding our previous discussion about the cemetery. Guy will include the most recent correspondence with the Minutes. This will be an ongoing project and still needs work on defining the role of HPC as it works with the American Legion Post.

Other old business relates to the upcoming meeting with CDG. Leah will find a meeting date that gives us adequate time to review several questions that will be sent to CDG to help define the role of CDG and HPC in protecting the downtown commercial district.

Under new business, Mary Evans reported on communication she has had from a town by the name of Diekirch, Luxembourg. This town was designated an adopted or sister city of Mount Vernon in approximately 1948 or 1949. Mount Vernon residents spent a good deal of effort, and provided many resources to Diekirch to help them recover from World War II. The person from Diekirch indicates there is a substantial amount of information displayed in the town regarding that period of time, and acknowledging the generous outpouring of support from Mount Vernon. We will get more information regarding the display of information and articles that appear in the Diekirch remembrance of our generosity. It is hoped that in the future, there can be further exchanges about information of the two communities. Mary pointed out that at the time this project started in 1949, an artist from Diekirch presented a picture of the Diekirch area to Mount Vernon. That painting has been a part of a collection at of the Mount Vernon Community School District. It has recently been presented to HPC and is now hanging in the community center. Mount Vernon also sent a picture of our community to Diekirch and it is part of their display. Mary will try to get this information on to our website and hopes Grace can help with this, as well as making this available on Facebook.

Caroline Kelly has inquired about obtaining a plaque for recognition of their home being one of the 11 brick houses recently accepted onto the National Register of Historic Places. We do not have a specifically designed plaque for these houses. Susan Hargus has previously helped design a plaque that is at the Visitor's Center and on some of the downtown buildings. Susan will check with the manufacturer of the plaque to see what the cost would be for a design plaque that is similar to what we have previously ordered. We can then forward that information to the owners of the 11 new houses that are now on the National Register, and they can either order them on their own, or we can determine if it is more economical to have the Commission assist in the ordering process.

Mary Evans indicated that she has attended a webinar regarding "why old places matter." Mary said it was a good seminar and she has received good printed material about it. This material will be available in our archives.

Leah indicates that Dick Thomas has been working on a timeline for structures in Mount Vernon, and in particular, had a question about when the train depot was demolished. No one had a specific recollection, but Guy Booth and Janet Budack both are familiar with the demolition, as they were able to salvage artifacts from the building. The Commission will try to gather enough information to fill in Rev Thomas's timeline.

Leah indicates that we will need to have a meeting on January 2. We anticipate Cornell may be ready to proceed with the request for a Certificate of Appropriateness on the renovation to the athletic facility.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Guy Booth, Secretary

Guy P. Booth

From: Jayne Bryant <jbryant@1010crlaw.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 1:57 PM
To: Guy Booth
Subject: FW: Letter from Guy Booth

See email from Kevin Woods.

Jayne Bryant

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From: Kevin Woods <kevin.woods@se.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 11:33 AM
To: Jayne Bryant <jbryant@1010crlaw.com>
Cc: michael.woods@mchsi.com; kwoods52314@outlook.com
Subject: RE: Letter from Guy Booth

Guy,

Talking the subject over with my brother Michael over the weekend and we are on board with the general idea of a "subcommittee" under the Historical Commission. So please set up a Zoom call for some evening whenever it suits all schedules and Mike and I will participate.

In general, we want to move the funds into a separate checkbook out of the Post and we will keep a record of expenses and possibly donations similar to what we do under the Post. And we would want to have approval authority for funds spent, at least as we start, as we need to make sure there are sufficient funds annually to cover the Memorial maintenance and improvements.

And certainly welcome any other members who are interested for their ideas on structure etc.

I see this as a "permanent" addition to the Historical Commission and I think as we move forward the what and how will define itself.

I cc'ed my home email too, so if I happen to be off over the holidays, I will still receive communications.

Regards,

Kevin