

**VILLAGE OF HUNTLEY
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, January 19, 2010
MINUTES**

5 CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Britton called to order the regularly scheduled meeting of the Village of Huntley Historic Preservation Commission for Tuesday, January 19, 2010 at 6:00 pm in the Village Hall Board Room, located at 10987 Main Street, Huntley, Illinois 60142. The room is handicap accessible.

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ROLL CALL - ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Donna Britton, Vice-Chair Lonni Oldham, Commissioners Karen Rocks, Tom Conley, Jake Marino, and Deb Waters

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MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Senior Planner Charles Nordman and Planner James Williams

20 3. Approval of Minutes

A MOTION was made to approve the **November 17, 2009 Meeting Minutes** with the following correction:

Page 3, Line 1, "after a great deal of discussion" deleted

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MOVED: Vice-Chair Oldham

SECONDED: Commissioner Rocks

AYES: Chairperson Donna Britton, Vice-Chair Lonni Oldham, Commissioners Deb Waters, Karen Rocks and Tom Conley

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NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Commissioner Jake Marino

MOTION CARRIED 5:0:1

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4. Old Business

Chairperson Britton asked for additional information regarding the Village Manager office's decision to address landmarking of the downtown square conceptually before the Village Board prior to scheduling of a public hearing to consider the designation.

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Planner Williams stated the Village Manager's position on the matter was the Village Board acts as agent for Village-owned property and consideration of the landmark-designation of any Village-owned property should first be discussed conceptually with the Village Board.

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Chairperson Britton asked what steps the Historic Commission could make to begin this process and Planner Williams directed a letter should be written to the Village Board formally requesting the conceptual review of the landmark designation for the downtown square.

A. Prospective Landmark Properties, Additions to existing Historic District and/or New Historic Districts

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Commissioner Conley suggested research and review of the historic properties along Second Street.

Commissioner Rocks distributed a single-sheet entitled *House Research for Grafton Township*, outlining the steps for researching historic properties through the McHenry County Recorder's office.

5 Commissioner Conley reviewed tax assessment information collected from the McHenry County Recorder's office in Woodstock, as well as a McHenry County Plat Book from 1908 and tax assessment information from 1855.

10 Commissioner Rocks suggested applicable excerpts from the collected Recorder's office data and/or the *House Research for Grafton Township* sheet outlining the research process may be appropriate to include in the form letters sent to prospective landmark property owners.

15 Commissioner Waters reviewed the third draft of the *Proposed Yearly Landmarking Goals* document she has produced and discussed at the last few meetings, including additions she had made to include "levels" for categorizing historic properties (i.e. "at-risk", landmark properties, and historic district properties) and a proposed timeline and method for contacting property owners.

6:27 p.m. – Jake Marino excused himself from the meeting.

20 Commissioner Conley stated the goal is to link-together as many properties as landmarks and as many other properties as "contributing" to a historic district focusing on Second Street.

The Commissioners agreed to focus initial efforts on four Second Street properties.

25 Chairperson Britton asked if Commissioners were interested in pursuing the landmark of any commercial properties.

Commissioner Rocks suggested concentrating on the residential landmarks.

30 Commissioner Conley stated he would begin research of some of the downtown structures and suggested his visit to Union, IL may offer some information in regard to these non-residential structures.

Commissioner Conley asked Planner Williams if he had heard anything more from the new Harris Bank site's representative previously interested in historic Huntley photos.

35 Planner Williams stated he had not heard from the Harris Bank representative since talking with Commissioner Conley in the middle of last month.

40 Vice-Chair Oldham referenced questions from the November 17th meeting Planner Williams was going to look into including the Village Board's position on Certified Local Government status and the effect of Home Rule on the Village's activities.

45 Planner Williams read from an e-mail correspondence he sent to the Historic Preservation Commissioners dated Wednesday, November 18th, 2009 including the Village Board not interested in pursuing Certified Local Government (CLG) status if it required amending the Historic Preservation Ordinance. Additionally, the question of Home Rule was addressed through recent Census Bureau corrections for Huntley indicating the population has not risen above the 25,000 threshold for Home Rule status.

5. New Business

50 A. Discuss May Local History Month Commemoration Event

Chairperson Britton reflected on last year's event stating it was very well received and included a bus tour of

historic sites narrated by Jake Marino.

5 Commissioner Waters suggested a house walk may be appropriate since it had not been done in several years with the exception of the Woodstock Street stroll in May 2008 which did not accommodate tours of the inside of homes.

10 Planner Williams stated the Farmer's Market kick-off event, "Plant Your Garden" Day, is scheduled for Saturday, May 8th with the regularly-scheduled Saturdays for the Farmer's Market to begin the Saturday after Memorial Day on June 5th. Therefore, Planner Williams suggested presenting the Pride in Preservation award recipients at the Village Board Committee of the Whole meeting on Thursday, May 6th and commemorating May as Local History Month on "Plant Your Garden Day", Saturday May 8th.

B. Discuss Pride in Preservation Nominations

15 Chairperson Britton recalled the Pride in Preservation nomination process last year resulted in twelve recipient properties and a list of other nominee properties which she hoped Commissioner Conley may have retained.

20 Commissioner Conley stated he would search his records and coordinate with Planner Williams before the February 16th Historic Preservation Commission meeting to arrive at a list of nominees appropriate for selection this year.

25 Commissioner Waters suggested consideration of "at-risk" properties in the nomination process to highlight those properties.

Discussion reverted back to the May commemoration of Local History Month including themes addressing historical figures from American armed conflicts, an architectural style tour, a horticultural theme and a workshop aimed at assisting property owners with determining the year their house was built.

30 Chairperson Britton asked Planner Williams to investigate the scheduling of events inside the Old Village Hall on Saturday, May 8th.

6. Adjournment

35 At 7:52 pm, A MOTION was made by Commissioner Conley to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Rocks. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

James Williams

40 Planner
Village of Huntley