

MINUTES
Historic Preservation Commission
September 3, 2020
City Hall, 100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL

1) Call to Order

B. Wyman, Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

2) Roll Call/Attendance

The following Commission members were present, Hamilton Hale, Judi Halter, Nancy Haskins, Diana Kenney, Brittany Niequist, Bob Wyman, and Jim Wyman. Lisa Solak was absent. Staff member Elizabeth Maxwell was present.

3) Public Comment

None.

4) Approval of Minutes of the August 6, 2020 Regular Meeting

D. Kenney made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 6, 2020 regular meeting. J. Wyman seconded the motion. All members voted aye. Motion passed.

5) Certificate of Appropriateness for Crystal Lake Cemetery

Mitchell Hopkins, a junior at Prairie Ridge High School and Eagle Scout Candidate with Troop 165, presented his project to clean headstones at the Crystal Lake Cemetery. He was inspired during the Memorial Day activities where the Boy Scouts place flags at Veteran's headstones. Many of the headstones are unreadable. He has researched the cleaning process and selected about 13 headstones in one area of the cemetery that are Veterans. He is very excited about the project and cannot wait to get started.

H. Hale thought this was an excellent idea. J. Wyman asked about which headstones would be done first. D. Kenney explained that the proposed project by Mitchell is focusing on Veterans. He was present at the cemetery a few weeks back when she was there and witnessed the process. He has an area where many Veteran stones are grouped so he is able to watch over his volunteers. D. Kenney said she was very comfortable with him undertaking this project and all the stones his group would do are safe and stable stones.

H. Hale asked if there were any living descendants of the people buried here. D. Kenney knew of very few descendants. B. Wyman asked if Mitchell had received Algonquin Township approval. Mitchell had this as his first step to acquire the Certificate of Appropriateness, then proceed to Algonquin Township, and then begin fundraising. The Legion has agreed to sponsor the event. The Commission members encouraged Mitchell to apply for the \$500 grant funding that they could approve.

J. Wyman made a motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for the cleaning of the headstones at Crystal Lake Cemetery. D. Kenney seconded the motion. On voice vote, all members voted aye. Motion passed.

D. Kenney made a presentation illustrating some of the work she has done recently at the cemetery. She provided before and after pictures of several of the headstones that were cleaned.

The difference was dramatic. WD Gates the grandfather of Major Gates, who is still alive and in his 90s, was a granite stone and came clean easier than others. It started as unreadable and black and is now a shiny light grey. Sumner E. Gates, WD's brother, had a grey stone that looked like concrete. After applying the D2 and scrubbing the stone for several sessions, it is a white marble stone. The final one displayed was the pillar monument for "Gentle Annie" DeMarbelle. It started dark grey, almost black and illegible. After two weeks it is a gorgeous white pillar. The cleaning is taking some time and the product is expensive, but the results are amazing. All of the commission members were impressed with the results and thanked D. Kenney for her work so far.

B. Wyman asked about more cleaning or repair in the cemetery. D. Kenney said Algonquin Township received a quote that was in the range of \$70,000, but she was unsure of the exact numbers to pick up the some of the headstones that were down and to stabilize them. This is something that the Township will need to budget for over many years provided there is still political support to do the project.

6) Ordinance and Solar Panels

Staff presented information received from the staff at the City of Joilet that were struggling with solar panels being proposed for an historic home. The Commission said that the request would require a Certificate of Appropriateness and would need to be reviewed. Staff will do some additional research on the Solar Rights Act, if solar panels would be allowed in the yard, and other solar power options.

7) Landmark Discussion

B. Wyman said he contacted Elizabeth Franz, which is the owner of the last portion of the Leonard Hotel. The family wants to attend the October 1st meeting to learn more about what landmark status means to the future of the house. B. Wyman will put together a list of some examples of things that would be reviewed by the HPC to get to the family prior to the meeting.

The Commission asked about 50 S. Caroline and 174 Eastview. There may be some research on these homes at the Colonial Palmer House. Staff suggested that commission members work together on learning how to research homes. They can then sponsor a home or homeowner and assist them with research and guiding them. It will be a good thing to keep people interested and learning more about the process. This should encourage more people to plaque their homes.

8) Member Inquiries and Reports

B. Wyman noted 510 Oxford was demolished. There was some discussion on the demolition process.

B. Niequist stated that the renovation work at the old Lutheran High School on McHenry Avenue will produce some façade changes. The new windows and HVAC units going in required the contractor to remove some of the brick façade. She spoke with them and they are trying to keep the façade the same as much as possible and no changes are proposed to the church building with the architecture or stained glass windows.

She also noted her windows for her home are currently being repaired and then will be reinstalled.

B. Wyman thanked D. Kenney for the north shore article in the newsletter.

8) Adjournment

There being no further business, D. Kenney made a motion to adjourn the meeting. J. Wyman seconded the motion. All members voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.