

Florence Township Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC)

<http://www.florencetwp.org/heritagecommission.html>

Meeting minutes for October 16, 2007

Call Meeting to Order

Meeting was called to order at approximately 7:10 AM. Those present: Bill Flies, Char Henn, Cory Koplin, Dan Staker. Absent: Andrea Hamilton, Joyce Engstrom, Clay Ruggles. It was determined that a quorum was present for the conducting of HPC business

Secretary's Report

The secretary's report of 09/18/07 was approved as posted on our website.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was read and approved. As of 10/15/07, the Parks Account had a balance of \$8,881.79 and with receivables pending of \$5,403.88 the projected Parks Balance Totals \$14,285.67. The HPC account has a total \$560.49.

Town Board Meeting Report

There was nothing to Report.

Design Review Applications (DRA)

Note to the DRA: It was decided that since the HPC Board only receives the DRA for initial review and recommendations and then passes such onto the Town Board, it was decided that no longer should the HPC refer to such applications as permits but instead they will be called by what they are: Design Review Applications (DRA's.)

Bill Laidlaw representing The Villa Maria presented to the HPC board certain actions taken and future actions being considered by the Villa Maria Trustees:

1. The Villa Maria is in the process of selling a portion of their land holdings to the Minnesota DNR to be included into the state park. None of these lands are located within the historic district.
2. The Villa Maria also intends to ready its property on Lake Ave known as Villa Angela for sale. The deed needs to be "validated" and this will require a court proceeding which may come by the end of the year 2007. Nonetheless, there is a portion of Lake Ave that lies within the proposed boundary lines that needs to be vacated. The board at Mr. Laidlaw's request asks that the HPC move to vacate the property. It was so moved and approved.
3. The final action was to reveal to the HPC board the possibility that the Villa Maria may in the future re-plat approximately 10.5 acres that lies just to the north of the Villa between Winona and Wood Ave and is bordered on the East by County 2. This property does fall within the boundaries of the historic district. They are thinking that it will be re-plated into three large sized lots and offered for sale. The property is currently zoned as R-1 meaning each lot will only contain a single family dwelling. We at the HPC expressed our concern that although it may initially be sold as a single lot a future owner may attempt to further subdivide the individual lot. We asked that a covenant be placed in the deed to insure that this will not happen. We also asked that they might include something in the deed to insure that a "buffered" area be maintained adjacent County 2, Winona, and Wood Ave. Mr. Laidlaw mentioned that the Villa located nearby had many of these same concerns.

Completed Projects

None to report

Active Projects

Chairman Flies suggested that in order to better monitor outstanding Design Review Applications, the HPC should add the item within Active Projects entitled DRA follow-up to ensure the compliance with the submitted and approved DRA's.

Entire Board -DRA Follow-up: The Chateau Frontenac PUD has received approval from both the Frontenac town board and the Goodhue planning commission for re-plating of the property's as discussed in September's HPC Board minutes.

Clay Ruggles -**Fill Terms (2)**

- Nothing to report

Andrea Hamilton -**"This Quiet Dust" Book Distribution**

Andrea Hamilton -**Bench Sponsorship**

Bill Flies -**Park Management 2007:
Shelter Upgrade:**

- Nothing to report
Interpretive Center (Grant Funding):
- Nothing to report
Park and Cemetery Survey and Markers:
- The surveyors are coming up with a cost figure and it is the HPC's intention to survey as much of our Parks and Cemetery as we can reasonably afford.
Park Maintenance Area Groups:
- It was pointed out that in the battle to control the buckthorn invasion once the rest of the plants within the parks go dormant the buckthorn plant stays green. This would be the best time to use the Round-Up herbicide to knock down the smaller plants with the harmful effects on the other plants.
Valhalla Vistas:
- Nothing to report
Wakondiota Status and Plans:
- We intend to commence brush clean-up this Fall/Winter

Bill Flies -**Walking Tour Brochure**

- Work on this project to commence this winter.

Bill Flies -**Heritage Assets Management**

- Nothing to report

New Business

Entire Board -**Historic District Guidelines and HPC's Charter**

- In order to begin an in depth review of our HPC guidelines, we will try to identify other historic districts throughout the state similar to ours to get an idea of what guidelines they may have in place. This could be a starting place to better refine and redefine ours.

Entire Board -**Historic Preservation Committee Priorities:**

- This is an attempt to see where we've been and what we wish to accomplish as we move forward.

Planned Absences None reported.

Adjournment Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM

Next HPC Scheduled Meeting: Tuesday November 20th. This is the final regularly scheduled meeting in 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary, Dan Staker