

# Florence Township Heritage Preservation Commission

Meeting Minutes, April 17, 2012

Attendance: Char Henn, Art Hamilton, Kerby Rigelman, Laurie Hodgson, Brad Stone, Virginia Oliver, Mike Blair, Joe Ellingson

Meeting Called to order at 7:00 pm

Minutes of March meeting were approved.

The HPC welcomed our new member, Virginia Oliver, onto the commission. We look forward to working with Virginia and drawing on her expertise in the history of our township.

A representative from the Minnesota Department of Transportation presented their Mississippi River Bike Trail plans to route the bicycle trail through Frontenac with signage at both intersections of County Road 2 and Highway 61. They also plan to place signs on Route 2 at the big right turn in the middle of the town of Frontenac. The signs would be 18" by 24". The trail would not involve any changes to infrastructure or expense to the Township. MNDot doesn't anticipate significant bike traffic through Frontenac. They estimated maybe 500 riders during bike riding season. MNDot is not asking the HPC or the Township for permission. Rather they are extending a courtesy to Florence Township and asking for formal support. They are legally capable of routing the path and placing signage wherever MNDot and the County want to. After much discussion, the HPC approved a motion to welcome the Bike Trail through Frontenac but requested that MNDot not place signs in the town of Frontenac. The HPC thought it was clear enough where Route 2 leads and didn't require signage. (Laurie Hodgson abstained from voting.)

A motion was approved to recommend to the Town Board to not allow private property including trucks and tractors and yard maintenance equipment to be parked on public land by residents on a regular basis. The HPC believes it is reasonable to have a consistent policy across the township on this issue.

Kerby Rigelman reviewed a list of priorities for renovating the Town Hall. He concluded that replacing the roof should be at the top of the priority list.

Laurie Hodgson's term on the HPC is complete. She will be retiring from the Commission and we all extended our gratitude and heartfelt thanks for all that she has done for the HPC during her years of service. We'll miss you Laurie.

After Laurie's retirement there will be 4 resident members of the HPC. The HPC Ordinances state, "The Commission shall comprise seven (resident) members. In addition thereto, the Town Board shall appoint one member of the Goodhue County

Historical Society and one of the Supervisors of Florence Township as ex-officio members of the Commission. Mike Blair is the HPC's Supervisor, and Char Henn is the Historical Society member. That leaves 3 empty resident member seats to be filled. Virginia reported that there may be another Friend of the Town Hall interested in serving. Mike Blair said he hopes to recruit new members for the HPC by advertising the openings.

Officer elections were held. Art Hamilton will continue as the Chairman for the next year. Kerby Rigelman is our new Vice Chair, and Brad Stone will continue as Secretary for another year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.