



Historic Preservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 17, 2025

6:30 p.m. at Village Hall

200 N. River Street · Montgomery, IL 60538

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

All Present gave Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Roll Call

Absent: Albright

Present: Buchanan, Chomiak, Johnson, Lee, Webster, Aman

Also present: Director of Community Development Sonya Abt, Trustee Ben Brzoska, Martha Larsen and Gary Weaver

III. Approval of Minutes of the Historic Preservation Commission of October 21, 2024

Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the October 21, 2024 minutes.

Commissioner Chomiak seconded the motion.

Voice vote: All Ayes.

IV. Items for Separate Action

a. Consideration and Recommendation for new Commissioner(s)

Martha and Gary introduced themselves. Chairman Aman stated he tried to reach out to an individual that had contact Village Staff with interest in serving on the Commission, however was unable to reach them and left a voicemail.

The Commission agreed defer this item to the end of the meeting to give the guests the opportunity to decide if they wanted to join the Commission before the commission votes to recommend them.

b. Settlers Cottage Repairs

Chairman Aman stated that he was able to connect with a carpenter, Jim Caputa, that does work for the Dickson Murst Farm. He agreed to fix the windows for Settlers Cottage pro bono. He just asked that the Village provide paint and pay for any out of pocket costs. The Commission was in support of using Mr. Caputa and reimbursing him if needed for any out of pocket expenses. Director Abt stated the Commission should make a formal vote.

Commissioner Buchanan motioned to approve the work on Settlers Cottage with Mr. Caputa. Commissioner Lee seconded the motion. Voice vote: All Ayes.

Chairman Aman stated he would reach out to him about starting as soon as possible and that he would be on site and assisting with painting during the entire process. Director Abt asked that Chairman Aman notify her of dates so she could coordinate with Public Works to ensure the cottage is open and to secure it while the windows are being worked on.

V. Items for Discussion

a. HPC FY26 Budget

Director Abt stated that the replacement computer was removed from the Budget due to constraints. She noted that if one of the computers needs to be replaced, Staff will look for a roll down computer to replace it with. Commissioner Buchanan asked about the Car Show budget. Director Abt stated the budget increased to \$2100 for this year for trophies and DJ and that the Village Board will still be contributing \$1500 towards the trophies for the Car Show.

b. HPC Events 2025:

i. Historic Downtown Walk (June)

The Commission discussed hosting this event again this year. Commissioner Buchanan suggested offering a talk this year instead the walk or possibly doing a talk during Montgomery Fest. The Commissioners expressed concern about volunteer coverage during Montgomery Fest and didn't think that would be a good fit. There was some discussion about coordinating with Concerts in the Park. Director Abt stated that Concerts in the Park dates had not been set as of yet and that the number of concerts had been reduced due to budgetary constraints. The commission suggested June 7th as a possible date. Director Abt stated she would follow up with Administration on dates for the concerts.

ii. Car Show (Aug 16)

Director Abt stated the car show would be on Saturday, August 16th. She shared the draft flyer/registration for 2025. She asked if there should be any changes to the categories. Chairman Aman said he would double check the registrations from last year but didn't think any changes needed to be made to the categories. The Commission agreed. Trustee Brzoska brought up judging and stated he had received some complaints about 110 Custom being judges as they worked on several of the cars that were entered into the show. Director Abt noted that 110 Customs did not judge any of the cars that were their clients. The Commissioners noted that 110 Custom had not been very reliable about providing judges and decided not to reach out to them for assistance this year. The Commissioners discussed reaching out to last year's volunteers again and to think of other potential judges. The Commissioners stated that the times worked last year and did not see the need to adjust.

iii. Cemetery Walk (Oct 1)

Commissioner Johnson stated their high schooler's have graduated and the commission will need to find new volunteers. She offered to check with the high school on any new volunteers. Chairman Aman stated he had spoken with one of the schools about a Class Project and potentially having the class write a script for the Cemetery Walk. The Commissioners thought that might be a difficult assignment for elementary students. Commissioner Buchanan stated they had not started writing any scripts yet and asked the Commissioners to give her suggestions if they come up with any.

iv. Other outreach opportunities to have Settler's Cottage open

Commissioner Buchanan stated that in the past they had done tours for Cub Scout troops. The commission suggested opening up the cottage before the Concert in the Park. The Commissioners thought it would only be open for a short time, ½ hour or so before the concert. Commissioner Buchanan shared that she would be giving a talk at Gray's Mill again next month.

Commissioner Buchanan also brought up the Riverside Cemetery headstones. She noted that there are several deteriorated headstones for the Gray family. She stated she

tried a spray used by Arlington Cemetery on a few to see how it worked. She asked the Commissioners if they would be willing to volunteer help with repairs if the Cemetery (Dieterle) approved of them doing that. The Commissioners were all in favor of helping. Director Abt noted there was money in the budget for supplies that could be used for the materials.

c. Settlers Cottage Museum Displays

Commissioner Buchanan stated that the All Steel Credit Union donated another bunch of All Steel items and asked that the HPC return whatever it does not want to keep. The Commission discussed finding a date before the Downtown Walk to go through the items and try to incorporate some into the display in the cottage.

Commissioner Buchanan stated that they had received a request for a Family Certificate. She explained that the HPC offers a pioneer family and a century family certificate for those who are descendants of Montgomery residents who settled in Montgomery either 100 years ago or were one of the pioneers that originally settled Montgomery. She said she would review the application to verify they qualified. Trustee Brzoska suggested doing a social media post on the program.

Item IV.a: Consideration and Recommendation for new Commissioner(s)
Mr. Weaver stated that the meeting dates would conflict with his schedule. Ms. Larson stated that she would be interested in joining the commission. Commissioner Chomiak motioned to recommend the Board appoint Martha Larson to the Commission. Commissioner Webster seconded the motion. Voice vote. All Ayes.
Director Abt asked Ms. Larson to fill out the Volunteer form on the website or to email President Brolley directly. If she can get that done as soon as possible her appointment could be on the next Board agenda for action.

VI. Next Meeting: April 21st

VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM