



Historic Preservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 21, 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: Buchanan, Johnson

Present: Albright, Chomiak, Lee, Webster, Aman, Larson

Also present: Director of Community Development Sonya Abt

III. Approval of Minutes of the Historic Preservation Commission of March 17, 2025

Commissioner Lee motioned to approve the March 17, 2025 minutes.

Commissioner Chomiak seconded the motion.

Voice vote: All Ayes.

IV. Items for Separate Action

a. Settlers Cottage Repairs

Chairman Aman stated that he and Mr. Caputa were able to finish all the windows, however there are several areas with significant rot. Mr. Caputa suggested using wood bondo to fix those areas. Since the use of bondo is not historically accurate, Chairman Aman asked the Commission if they were ok with using this repair method to protect the Cottage. The Commissioners were in favor of using the bondo.

Director Abt stated if it was available at the Sherwin Williams store she could have Public Works order it before the end of the month so the expense came out of this fiscal year's budget. Chairman Aman stated Mr. Caputa said he would show him how to use the bondo for the repairs.

Commissioner Lee motioned to allow the use of wood bondo for the repairs of rotting around the windows. The motion was seconded by Chairman Aman.

Voice vote: All Ayes.

V. Items for Discussion

a. HPC Events 2025:

i. Historic Downtown Walk (June)

Director Abt stated she did not have dates for the Concerts in the Park yet and would get them to the Commission as soon as she could. The Commission decided June 7th was the best date. The Commissioners were in favor of keeping the times the same as last year 10 AM to Noon. Chairman Aman stated he would bring a cooler of water this year for them to sell in case it is extremely hot again like it was last year. Everyone said they were available to help with the tour either manning the cottage or leading the tour.

ii. Car Show (Aug 16)

Director Abt asked about car show categories. Stating that typically the flyer is finalized by May 1st. Chairman Aman stated he would take a look at the registrations from last year and tally them up to see if any categories needed to be adjusted.

iii. Cemetery Walk (Oct 1)

No update on script ideas, as both Commissioners Buchanan and Johnson were absent.

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

Director Abt stated she had confirmed there would be 2 Concerts in the Park this year but dates had not yet been finalized, but they would be on weekday evenings. The Commission was still in favor of opening the Cottage for 30 minutes or an hour before the shows.

b. Settlers Cottage Museum Displays

Director Abt stated she had an email from Commissioner Buchanan stating that she had received another box of donations from All Steel that needs to be gone through. She also stated she had received a photo from Patty Paris of her grandfather and said they have information on the Paris family. The Commission discussed revising the All Steel exhibit ahead of

the Downtown Walk however several commissioner were going to be out of town or unavailable in May.

c. Riverside Cemetery Repairs

Director Abt shared the Commissioner Buchanan stated she was able to speak with Dieterle about the cemetery. They are fine with the Commission working on cleaning/repairing the historic headstones however they were unsure they had any funding to help with the costs. She stated she did see the Landmarks Illinois has a grant program for restoring headstones.

d. Family Certificate Program

Director Abt stated that we recently received an application for the Family Certificate Program. Commissioner Buchanan worked with Administration on updating the Certificate design. The redesign was included in the packet. Director Abt asked for feedback. The Commissioners all liked the new certificates.

Director Abt also noted that Commissioner Buchanan noticed that the website mentions a \$5 fee for the certificate. She believes having a free program would make it more likely for people to apply. Getting this information helps the HPC locate descendants of our early families. The commissioners agreed there should not be a charge. Director Abt stated the website can always say the program is fee however donations are always appreciated to help support the program. The Commissioners agreed.

VI. Next Meeting: May 19th

Chairman Aman stated he would be on vacation that week. Vice-Chairman Albright stated he would be in attendance.

VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 PM