

Portage Historical District Commission
Meeting Minutes
June 3, 2015

Present: Russ Randall, Mark Reile, Jessie Duniphin, Christine Broberg, Suzanne Nemith, Katie VanLonkhuyzen, James Ebert. Citizen: Joseph Vergunst. Excused Absence: Erica Eklov and Fred Gurnert.

Meeting called to order at 8:25 a.m.

Introductions were made to our newest commission member Jessie Duniphin, and our citizen in attendance Joseph Vergunst representing his brother Philip Vergunst.

May meeting minutes were approved as written.

Mark's presentation to City Council has been rescheduled for June 9th.

Application for Certificate of Appropriateness for 3221 W. Milham regarding the removal of the barn. A motion was made to decline application as written citing that property owner failed to provide additional information that was requested. Motion was approved.

The commission reviewed a certificate of appropriateness for the property at 5720 Oakland Drive. There was a 3 part request: Remove a pool and the concrete and fence surrounding the area, remove 2 outbuildings; including a shed and garage, and take down existing hay barn possibly re-position on property and rebuild with existing wood / reclaimed wood to preserve historical value of building. Minimal discussion was needed in regards to the pool. Concerns and discussion were had on the existing shed and garage including whether it would be in the best interest at this time to remove those buildings regardless of historical value. There was significant clarification requested by the board including a time line for the restoration of the barn, drawings of new structure with dimensions included. The property owner seems willing to work with the board to ensure that the historical value of the barn is maintained. He also learned about the zoning board requirements; about the size and height of the new structure and that a variance would probably be needed. We also requested that information be provided. A motion was made to approve the removal of the pool and surrounding concrete and fence, but to table the removal of the smaller outbuildings and barn pending additional information. Motion was passed. It was also asked of the property owner that a site visit be allowed and is pending for June 23rd or 25th.

July's meeting was set for the 1st of July.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.