

Portage Historic District Commission

Regular Meeting

Conference Room 2

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Present: S. Nemeth, C. Forrest, J. Ebert, E. Eklov, R. Randall, J. Duniphin K. VanLonkhuyzen, F. Grunert and M. Deming

Absent: J. Lotz

Meeting called to order: 8:20 AM

Review of minutes from August 3, 2016. Minutes approved with the addition of adding \$150,000 to \$175,000 for the cost of relocating 8009 Cox's Drive schoolhouse.

OLD BUSINESS:

3221 W. Milham/Nieuwenhuis

Original barn has been torn down.

- E. Eklov forwarded photos of the site to HDC members.
- Building commission has not approved materials to be used for construction of new barn.
- Questions:
Are the proposals made to HDC and to Community Development the same?
Will reclaimed material still be used for the new door?
Plans appear to show sliding doors is this what was originally proposed?
Will sliding doors accommodate moving boats and other items inside the new structure?

5720 Oakland/Vergunst

- Nothing new on the barn.

2663 Mandigo/Kiley

- A court date has been set and there is a \$11,000 lien on the property.

1521 E. Centre Avenue/Selinon Park Development

- Proposal is up for final approval (September 20 Council meeting).
- Developers would like to move the driveway 10 ft. from original plans.
- Developers and HDC had originally talked about moving a barn currently at 1603 to 1521 East Centre. They would now like to leave the barn on its original site.

10234 East Shore Drive/Giem

- No action has been taken on the Train Barn.
- Property has been divided but no lots are up for sale at this time.

922 W. Osterhout/Norman

- Siding has been removed.
- Some of the original siding remains.
- Original windows also found under removed siding.

8643 S. Westnedge/new owner

- Property has been sold.
- E. Eklov will send a packet of current HDC materials to new owner.

Community Awareness Project:

- No one has volunteered to produce a newsletter.
- Confirmed that the HDC will be holding an event during the month of May 2017.
- Need to think about venue for the event.
- WMU Archives may be interested in participating because of Dr. VanRipers connection to WMU.
- C. Forrest working on Area Relator Contact and letter.
- HDC still needs to work on drafting a Statement of Significance for the district and on categorizing property sites.

NEW BUSINESS:

2106 Forest

- What style is this home?
- From an old drawing, it appears that the entrance was originally in the front of the home, and the front at that times appears to be a Cape Cod farmhouse.

Guest: Judy Shehigian

Judy is a board member of MORSA (Michigan One Room Schoolhouse Association). MORSA has done surveys of Michigan one-room schoolhouses and their original sites. Many of these school houses have been moved, destroyed, or re-purposed.

- District 8 Schoolhouse is eligible for an award given by MORSA for the best restoration of a one-room schoolhouse. (\$250)
- HDC needs to apply for the award.
- The award is presented during the 2nd week of May at the MORSA annual conference.
- Judy brought a photograph of District 8 Schoolhouse before it was moved to Celery Flats and restored, and copies of the MORSA newsletter for HDC use.
- Judy asked if the HDC planned on expanding exposure of District 8 Schoolhouse. HDC opened the schoolhouse and allowed visitors during the

2016 Green-A-Thon. HDC would also like to find additional ways to involve the community in awareness of District 8 Schoolhouse.

VanRiper Property:

Judy was interested in the status of the VanRiper Property. She is a friend of the VanRiper family and encouraged Mick Lynch to buy the property. She mentioned that the VanRiper family was “appalled” by the current appearance of the property. HDC explained that Mr. Lynch had asked for permission to split the property and sell off a parcel for development, but that the original buildings and a smaller parcel of property will remain a private residence. The sales trailer is temporary and will be removed from in front of the historic buildings after the sales period. The developer (Story Point) is regrading and re-landscaping the ground between the new development and the historic buildings. It is planned that the original lilac bushes will be replaced. Mr. Lynch is currently working on addressing code violations on the historic property. HDC intends to feature the property and Dr. VanRiper during National Preservation Month, May 2017.

Next Regular Meeting scheduled for October 5th.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 AM.

Respectfully submitted: Martha Deming Maytnier/Recording Secretary