

Historic Landmark Commission Meeting
Mantua Village Hall
April 1, 2017

Call to order

Chair Nick Ehlert called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m.

Roll Call

Commissioners present: Nick Ehlert, Terri Vechery, Jack Schafer and Renee Henry.

Mayor Clark was also present.

Reading of the Minutes

The commissioners took a few minutes to read the Minutes from February 2017.

Nick asked if there were any corrections. There were none. Renee Henry motioned the Minutes be accepted as written and Terri Vechery seconded. All approved.

Old Business

Walking Tour

Nick Ehlert opened discussion on a walking tour of Mantua. Could include High or Prospect Streets. Examples could be Evelyn Parks home, a home on Woodford and he asked for other ideas. Should the walk be spread out or centralized?

Terry Vechery suggested West Prospect Street is the most historic with two homes that belonged to Amzi Atwater, Hilltop Church, Dave Haylett's house, Craft / Hine house, the home by the Cemetary which is one of the original homes in the Village, the home with the cobblestone front porch, .

The walking tour would include information like the style of the home, when it was built, former owners, based on the research done.

Renee Henry had been on a walking tour of Hiram Village many years ago during the Village's 4th of July celebrations. It highlighted homes that had been moved over the years to help make way for the expansion of Hiram College.

Jack Schafer suggested concentrate on local landmarks with historic interest. Information on the architectural style and year built.

Terri and Eric Hummel had walked around Mantua to take pictures of homes and found that Franklin Street has some lovely homes. They spoke to a home owner and explained what they were doing. He was very receptive and interested in the history of his home.

Terri will get the paper work she had given Renee to document digitally and from Alex, the Hiram intern. Unfortunately, she doesn't have an intern interested in working on the research this year. She will be doing research a couple times a month to get each owner for the homes. Nick volunteered to write an article to submit based on her research. Terri also referenced a book on newspaper articles on Mantua which is at the Reed Memorial Library and some reference homes in the Village.

Nick spoke of the Fiala building which had been the local library and had public restrooms. It had been the largest farm and tractor supply in the area as well as Sontag's gas station.

Ohio Historic Marker

Nick proposed getting a marker for the Village's commercial district.

Terry asked where it would be put? Because of the way the Village is configured and the hills, it is difficult to put signs up. The marker would be free standing on a pole in a visible area.

Could consider the area that had been burned and now has the flowers.

We would need to know the size of the marker.

The cost is \$2500 and a \$750 grant can be applied for. The Village Council may help fund the marker and we could use money from the Landmark's budget. Local residents may also help out with donations.

Historic Business District Extension (National Registry)

The extension would include property to the north on Main Street and east and west on Prospect Street.

- Main Street
 - Village Hall
 - Fiala's property
 - Italiano's
- Prospect Street
 - Livery on East Prospect
 - Buildings on West Prospect
 - West Prospect commercial up to Craft house

Jack Schafer suggested begin with local educational efforts such as the local tour and newspaper articles to get the resident's good will and save the business district's expansion and historic marker for later.

Terri and Nick will meet to decide on properties that may be included on the walking tour based on her research. They will gather the information and consult reference material at Reed Memorial Library, archives at the Record Courier, Record News, Mantua Record for anecdotal information.

Article

Nick asked if the article that he had written had been submitted. Terri had submitted it to Christine Pitsinger for the Community Journal. It comes out the first and third week of the month. She didn't know if it had been printed. She'll check with Christine, who had e-mailed her that it would be printed.

New Business

Nick had met Captain Aaron Burnett. Terri Vechery also knows him. He is very interested in local history and Nick feels he would be an asset if he were to join the Landmark Commission. Nick has invited him to attend a future meeting.

Discussed local history and the rural character of the Mantua area. It is related to the history of the

railroad which had a big impact on local agriculture and dairy industry, potato farms, etc. plus the passenger commute to Cleveland. The railroad also brought in lumber and coal to build and heat with. Terri had taken the train to Cleveland for her job and school. The last passenger train was around 1974. The freight trains stopped later in the 1980's.

Date of meetings for 2017:

June 24
September 9
November 4

Terri Vechery motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Jack Shafer seconded. All approved. The meeting adjourned at 11:38.

Nick Ehlert, Chair

Renee Henry, Secretary