

Landmark Commission Meeting  
Mantua Village Hall  
June 25, 2016

Call to order

Chair Nick Ehlert called the meeting to order at 10:36 a.m.

Roll Call

Commissioners present: Hal Stamm, Terri Vechery, Nick Ehlert and Renee Henry

Nick Ehlert had heard from Carole Pollard and Eric Hummel that they were not able to attend today's meeting. Renee Henry motioned to excuse Eric Hummel and Carole Pollard. Hal Stamm seconded. All approved.

Helen Hazlett was absent.

Mayor Linda Clark

Mantua Village Council: Paula Tubalkain

Reading of the Minutes

Renee had e-mailed everyone the May 7, 2016 Minutes for review. The commissioners took a few minutes to silently review them.

Nick asked if there were any corrections. There were none. Hal Stamm motioned the Minutes be accepted and Renee Henry seconded. All approved.

Old Business

Historic Architecture Talk by Chas Boebinger on June 4.

The talk was very informative and the scope was educational. All agreed it was an excellent presentation.

However, the exact architecture of specific local homes was not discussed in detail, which many people may have been expecting given the content of the flyer.

Renee Henry had recorded a video of the talk and will make a CD available. She will give the Mayor a copy.

Mayor Clark had received comments from 4 people who had concerns about comments made. One person felt slighted by remarks made by another person about her property. Others felt the flyers were misleading and were expecting an in depth analysis of the architecture of local properties, not a general educational presentation.

Nick stated we apologize if anyone felt dismayed by comments made and that was not our intention.

Nick had heard his presentation before and in retrospect, Nick could have spoken to Chas in the weeks before the presentation and ask that he concentrate on local architecture.

### Federal Government's rules to gain tax credits for businesses

Terri Vechery had brought her laptop to show what resources she has found on the web. Unfortunately, she was not able to connect to the Village's internet. She said to print out the content would involve too much paper. Perhaps for the next Landmark Commission meeting she'll be able to connect so that we can look at the site.

### Request for Landmark Listing forms

Nick asked if the forms are available. Renee said they are in the binder and she will make Nick some copies after the meeting was done.

Nick will be handing these to Jodi Foster, Charlie English and Eric Hummel.

### Walking Tour

Create a pamphlet: pictures with short descriptions of local points of interest

Carriage tours. Nick has spoken to the Village Solicitor, Michelle Stuck, and she said there are no special rules for having carriage tours around the village. They obey the general traffic rules.

Nicks thoughts on the tours

Make use of the old Mantua livery. Have a temporary fence put up in the pasture area with horses and a carriage on display nearby. Perhaps local Amish could be invited to set this up.

People could pay for the carriage tour and the driver could stop at certain locations and either the driver or another person riding along could speak about the architecture and history of the building.

The carriage tours could take place on the weekends during the spring and summer.

Nick asked for ideas.

Hal said Eric has some carriages that have been restored. Nick has seen them, they are very nice, but said he was considering other people who do this professionally.

It was suggested that instead of all summer long the carriage tours could be setup for 2 consecutive weekends perhaps in conjunction with another event like Art on the Hill, the Quilt Show or the Potato Festival.

Local points of interest could be the old taverns or the Maple Dell spiritualist camp area. Hal remembers hearing mention of a steam boat and asked if anyone had heard of that. No one had. Terri said gypsies also used the area in the 1930s and 1940s as a temporary place to stay. She is gathering a vocal history from Gloria Alger.

Mayor Linda Clark said she has manila folders with lots of newspaper articles, flyers and pictures that could be useful. They could be printed up along with older pictures of local

homes. Cindy Janson has a lot of items that may be of interest. In fact Cindy had given Linda a 1900 Atlas of Portage County. However, it is crumbling and falling apart and Linda has nowhere to keep it. Linda gave it to Renee Henry who can give it to the Mantua Historical Society.

Nick would like to meet with Terri to coordinate the information she has gathered with the interns so that can be included in the pamphlet and tour. Terri said she and Linda Ehlert, Nick's wife, who is Chair of the Mantua Historical Society, are planning on getting together in the near future. Renee volunteered to help as well.

As a side note: Terri is looking for the original copies of deeds from 1995 to present. She wants to make a copy of the original and not the scanned copy on line. She said it is a challenge to follow the chain of property ownership and some may be due to clerical errors. Some properties change hands regularly back and forth between the same individuals.

### Ohio History Connection: 2016 CLG Performance Evaluation

The forms had been received in May after the last Landmark Commission meeting.

The CLG is evaluated the first year after receiving certification and every other year after that. The next evaluation will be in 2018.

Renee reviewed the form that she had filled out and sent in.

- Note any changes to ordinances (none were made)
- New preservation plan since last evaluation (none)
- Note any local design decisions (none)
- Changes in Landmark Commission members (Terri Vechery)
- List any training members have attended (Nathan Bevil's training in May 2015)
- Copies of advertised meetings (Mantua Village website)
- Agenda of a recent meeting

The Mantua Village CLG had received notification that it had passed the evaluation.

Renee had the original copies and added them to the binder. She also gave copies to Mayor Clark.

### Grant Research

Ohio Historical Preservation

Hiram interns may be able to help with this

Hal asked if the Mantua Center School committee could help with researching grants. Terri is on that committee and they are actively researching funds and grants. Have to identify what is required and look for the specific grant to fund the project. She can report any grants that would be applicable for the Landmark Commission.

Other Business

Nick asked Mayor Clark what input she had regarding Mantua Village and how people can be attracted to visiting local sites.

Improvements to the Trails & Village Park - Mantua DMRC has been working on getting funds.

United Way has contacted her about a trail idea and their representative will be coming to the next Mantua Village Council meeting to discuss their program.

Coordinate with the local townships in the Crestwood District: Mantua, Shalersville, Hiram. Each has unique points of interest both architectural and historical that could be included.

Set up kiosks by the trail to inform the public about the history around them.

Renee suggested the walking tour pamphlet could be added to the Mantua Village and Mantua Historical Society's websites.

Terri announced the Mantua Quilt Show and Tea will be at the Hilltop Church on September 24. There is a charge to enter a quilt and prizes will be awarded based on the votes submitted by visitors.

Dates of remaining meetings

September 10

November 5

January 7, 2017

Mayor Clark let Renee know she can e-mail her with any information for Mantua Matters and Linda will submit it to Diane.

Renee motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Terri seconded. All approved. The meeting adjourned at 11:30.

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Nick Ehlert, Chair

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Renee Henry, Secretary