

**Village of Mantua  
Historic Landmarks Commission  
Meeting: Saturday, June 28, 2014**

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Pollard called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

**2. Roll Call**

All commission members present excepting Ms. Hazlett. Also present were Mayor Linda Clark, and Councilor Marty Hura.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Chair Pollard pointed out a spelling error. Mr. Stamm moved to amend the minutes to correct the spelling error. Mr. Hummel seconded. All ayes. Minutes amended.

Mr. Ehlert moved to approve the minutes of the March meeting, as amended. Ms. Henry seconded. All ayes. Minutes approved as amended.

**4. Bi-annual Review of the Records of the Commission**

The Commission conducted a review of its records. Motion by Mr. Snopek that he be directed to minute that the Commission has completed its bi-annual review of its records. Seconded by Mr. Ehlert. All ayes.

**5. Chair's Report**

Chair reported on the article she wrote and which was published in Mantua Matters.

Chair Pollard reported that she placed collection cans for suggestions in three places, but no responses/suggestions were received.

The Chair asked for input from the Commission as to how to proceed.

Mr. Stamm reported that he had spoken with his daughter (a person with some experience in historic preservation), and that a portion of the commercial district of Mantua is presently on the National Register of Historic Places. Mr. Stamm suggested that the portion on the National Historic Register become part of the local historic district.

Ms. Henry inquired about the process for doing so. Mr. Stamm offered to make some telephone calls – perhaps to the National Register.

Mr. Hummel inquired whether we had reviewed this issue. Mr. Stamm responded that we had not.

Mr. Stamm suggested we might find some useful information online, and volunteered to do some further research into what buildings might be covered.

Chair Pollard discussed the confusion that sometimes occurs around the level of protection afforded by National Register status, and the importance of local Landmark Commission efforts.

Chair Pollard indicated that it was important to think about what was on the National Register, and what might be done about it.

Mr. Stamm suggested looking at ordinances from other communities to see what they have done – with a preference for making an effort to keep things from becoming overly complicated.

The Chair stressed that ignoring historic preservation guidelines means loss of historic and aesthetic value, and perhaps loss of funding.

Chair Pollard stated that our ordinance was based on the ordinance in the village of Mount Pleasant, and expressed that our ordinance could be modified, and that perhaps we should investigate some others.

Chair Pollard stated that the commission members were all supposed to engage in some kind of continuing education. She stated that some of this could be done individually, and that it would also be interesting to see what other people do that we could apply.

Chair Pollard solicited suggestions for the next Mantua Matters. Mr. Snopek suggested an article on the 1909 Fountain. Mayor Clark indicated she might have some interesting information to share.

Mr. Snopek informed the commission that he had received some beautiful old postcards of important Mantua buildings from Ms. Dawn Pechman. The Commission viewed the cards, and they were enjoyed.

Mr. Snopek indicated that the cards – though lovely – raise an issue. Specifically, there might be confusion in the public that we are a body like the Historic Society, which is equipped to take-in heirlooms, and historic items. However, we are not because we do not deal with these things under our statute, and we do not have space for storing and caring for donated artifacts.

Mr. Snopek moved that the Commission authorize him to send a written “thank you,” to Ms. Pechman, explaining our inability to care for artifacts, and returning them to her. Mr. Hummel modified the motion suggesting that she be provided with contact information for the Mantua Historical Society, which would likely be interested in the cards, and have space for their care. Ms. Henry seconded. All ayes.

Mr. Snopek moved that the Commission authorize him to write to the Clerk-Treasurer, and Village Council explaining the problem of accepting physical items, artifacts, etc., from the public and asking that members of the public with historic artifacts that they wished to donate, be directed to the Mantua Historical Society. Ms. Henry seconded. All ayes.

**6. Old Business**

**a. Inventory of Historic Buildings and Structures**

Chair Pollard inquired of the Commission for the sense of their list. The Chair indicated that Mr. Stamm's suggestion of beginning with those buildings on the National Register was a good start.

The Chair stated that there is also the Ohio Historic Register, which is an important resource. The Chair reminded the Commission that these are detailed documents and that she thought the Commission should be working on that, as well.

The Chair asked if anyone wanted to contact the Ohio Historic Preservation Office, and look into the historic inventory. Ms. Henry volunteered to look into it.

The Chair indicated that Mr. Stamm would, at our next meeting, also report on his findings.

**b. Street Markers**

The Chair indicated that the Commission had received a letter from Council, and asked Mayor Clark where we were with it.

Mayor Clark indicated that the village was waiting to hear from ODOT because it appears that ODOT may think there are safety issues with the old posts.

Mr. Stamm stated that it would be worth asking ODOT how many foot pounds of force are involved in their calculations, because it appears to Mr. Stamm that the posts would fall over before doing the damage ODOT may fear.

There was a general discussion of whether concrete corner posts/street markers would cause more damage than steel posts.

The Chair queried whether the street markers were on hold until further notice.

Mayor Clark indicated that in addition to ODOT, there was an issue of funding.

Mr. Hummel stated that Mr. Stamm's censure by Council should be rescinded, and that it was heavy handed and out of line. Mr. Hummel expressed that he would like to see the censure expunged and a brief memo sent rather than a censure.

Mr. Hummel moved that the Commission request that Council expunge the censure of Mr. Stamm, and instead direct a brief letter to the Commission.

The Chair inquired for a second to Mr. Hummel's motion. There was no second. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Discussion moved on.

The Chair offered that perhaps she could write an article about the 11 special items listed in the last minutes.

Mr. Ehlert inquired how we might fund restoring or replacing sign posts.

Mr. Snopek stated that he had concerns about how the money part worked.

Mr. Stamm offered that he would be happy to show someone how the posts were made.

Chair Pollard offered that there was an engineering or pre-engineering program at the school, and that it might present a wonderful opportunity.

The Chair stated that perhaps the DMRC might be interested in participating.

The Chair summarized that basically the Commission was on hold in regard to the posts, with the exception of further investigation.

Mr. Stamm offered that if we obtained free labor that the material costs of the posts was probably around \$150.

Mr. Stamm suggested that it might be good to think about Maplewood.

Mr. Snopek stated that it was his belief that the specific font of the posts, with their backward "N," was important to maintain, but that the Commission need not discuss it.

Mr. Stamm informed the Commission that the depth of the letters on the olds posts was not adequate.

Mr. Hummel asked if ODOT was only concerned about those signs on Main Street.

Mayor Clark replied that it would likely have to be looked into some more.

The Chair asked if there was anything else on Mantua Matters or the street markers.

**c. CLG**

Mr. Snopek provided the Commission with a hand-written draft.

There was a general discussion on the procedure of applying for Certified Local Government status.

The Chair stated that she thought the Commission should talk about pledges of support, and their importance to the CLG process.

The Commission then proceeded to review the application.

There was further discussion of the process of applying for CLG, and what might and what might not go into an application.

Mr. Stamm moved to approve the draft. Ms. Henry seconded. All ayes.

Mr. Snopek stated that perhaps we should have a full meeting to discuss CLG.

Chair Pollard inquired as to what the Commission was doing with the draft.

Mr. Ehlert expressed that he thought the Secretary should continue to work on it.

There was further discussion on what to do to move the process forward.

Mr. Snopek moved that the Commission direct him, as Secretary, to complete a final copy of the CLG application with the understanding that he has limited time, and that it might not be completed by the next meeting, and that anyone else was welcome to take over the drafting. Mr. Ehlert seconded. All ayes.

There was then discussion on the procedure for getting copies of a more final CLG application to everyone. Mr. Snopek agreed that when he was finished he could leave hardcopies with the Clerk-Treasurer, as well as supplying them by email.

Chair Pollard inquired whether there was anything else to discuss.

**7. Adjournment**

Mr. Stamm moved to adjourn. Mr. Snopek seconded. All ayes.