

MINUTES
OF
MOUNT VERNON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Saturday, December 5, 2015

The Historic Preservation Commission met on December 5, 2015 at 9:15 a.m. present were Sarah Kelly, Leah Rogers, Dick Thomas, Susan Hargas, Hugh Lifson, Ed Sauter and Guy Booth. Upon motion made by Sarah Kelly, seconded by Leah Rogers, Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Two design review applications were before the commission. The first application is for an amendment to the Certificate of Appropriateness previously granted to the reconstruction of the front of the Video Village Building owned by Lance and Sarah Dixon. Because of unexpected deterioration of support beams in the front of the building, and because of the inability to find matching brick, it is requested that the portion of the building from just above the windows down will have wood panels, rather than replacement brick. In reviewing historic pictures of the building, it was shown that the portion of the building around the windows did not have brick facia, so using wood panels comes close to the original design of the building. Ed Sauter was able to explain the change that was required because of the condition of the building, and how the new plan will be appropriate to the original design. Upon motion made by Leah Rogers, seconded by Guy Booth, the original application for certificate of appropriateness is amended to allow for use of wood panels around the front windows.

The second request for design review is for a fence to be constructed at 508 5th Ave. N., Mount Vernon, IA. This is a new fence which will be an enclosure of the back yard of the property. The fence will also be noticeable from the front of the property. The fence is known as a "shadow box fence." The Mount Vernon ordinance does not specify the type of fence that is allowable, it only applies to height, visibility through the fence, and required setback. Upon motion made by Hugh Lifson, seconded by Leah Rogers, the building permit was approved as having no material effect.

Dick Thomas reported that we are at a point where we will need to organize the installation of the Micky Woods Mural at the City Council chambers. Dick will be meeting with Jim Englebrecht, who has volunteered to supervise the construction of a frame and the placement of the frame and mural on the east wall of the chambers. At the same time, the Mount Vernon history photographs will be taken down and placed at the 1st Street building. Dick will organize a timeline to present to the City so this project can be completed.

Dick Thomas has previously sent a letter to all new members of the City Council regarding the work of the Mount Vernon Historic Preservation Commission. It would be a good idea to provide an orientation for the members. Dick will talk with the mayor to find time at a work session of the City Council to allow the commission to make an orientation presentation.

Sarah Kelly indicates that she, Brooke Bergantzel and Mary Evans have been working on the website to establish uniform standards for tags on the photographs and

other information that will be available. This project will continue ahead with help from one or two Cornell students.

Mary Evans has spent a good deal of time reorganizing the archives room. This includes a general cleaning which was necessary, as well as disposal of an old computer and other items that were no longer needed by the Commission.

Hugh Lifson introduced information about Everett Fly, a person who is receiving an award recognizing his work in historic preservation in identifying historically significant black settlements in America. Hugh handed out an article about Mr. Fly. Hugh also reported two art shows that are currently available in Mount Vernon. Pat Westerkamp's studio is open this weekend. There is also an art exhibit at the Cornell Library, featuring Mark Benesh, Sarah Benesh and Hugh Lifson.

Next meeting will be held January 9, 2016 at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Guy Booth, Secretary