

MINUTES
OF
MOUNT VERNON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
October 16, 2019

The Historic Preservation Commission met on Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at 9:30 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Visitors Center. Members present were Leah Rogers, Machele Pelkey, Caroline Kelly, Suzette Astley, Hugh Lifson, Sue Hargus, and Grace Chamberlain. Guests who were present included Cari Morgan, Ed Wygal and Aaron Rittenhouse, all representing Cornell College.

Upon motion made, the Minutes of the October 5, 2019 meeting were approved.

The design review issue on the agenda relates to the replacement of windows at Cornell College in College Hall, and in Old Sem. Ed Wygal showed the Commission the type of window that will be placed in both buildings. The windows are an exact replica of the windows that are being taken out. They are made of aluminum construction, and have 9 over 1 glass panes in the window. The windows also have a built-in screen so windows can be opened for fresh air. The windows also have a built-in mutton, which replicates the appearance of the windows that are being replaced. Upon motion by Hugh Lifson, seconded by Caroline Kelly, a certificate of appropriateness for the windows was approved, subject to the completion of the permitting paper work.

Aaron Rittenhouse gave a report on lighting that is being re-done on the campus. He indicates that all of the exterior wall lights are being replaced. The light will be midway between yellow as the lower intensity light and the blue/white light of high intensity. He indicated that the intensity will be at 4,100 kelvin. These will be at the entrance of the campus buildings. Aaron indicates that they are not going to be adding additional lighting for the campus or the parking lots. The college will be putting in motion sensors on these lights so that they will only be on full bright when the sensor identifies movement in the parking lot. Aaron indicates that the lights will be re-done so that the focus of the light is downward. This will result in less light pollution on the campus. It is appreciated that Cornell has responded to the issue of light pollution and intensity of lights on the campus that could adversely affect homes adjacent to the campus. Upon motion made by Suzette Astley, seconded by Hugh Lifson, a certificate of no material effect will be issued subject to the completion of the permitting paperwork from Linn County and from the City of Mount Vernon.

Under new business, Machele has reviewed the design guideline booklet that was printed a number of years ago. She feels there should be an update added to the booklet, as the process for obtaining a certificate of appropriateness has changed. She indicates the pasting in of a small supplemental page should correct any outdated information. The Commission feels Machele's proposal is very helpful and it will be pursued. Machele also distributed a copy of a pamphlet that is entitled Living in a Historic District. This can be printed and given to property owners who are within an historic district, and also to owners of property on the historic register. This could be very helpful so people understand how historic districts work, and what the owners obligations are. Machele will proceed to put the pamphlet into a final draft.

Suzette Astley indicated that there is still one opening on the Historic Preservation Commission. She has visited with several people, but does not have a person who is ready to make a formal application. Suzette also indicated that she is working on a manual that pulls together information so commission members have a better understanding of all of the procedures that the Commission deals with.

Machele indicates that she will be considering doing another newsletter in the future. The Commission agrees that the newsletter provides great information to the community and should foster a stronger appreciation for the positive impact the historic preservation has for the community.

The next scheduled meeting of the Commission is November 2 at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Guy Booth, Secretary