

VILLAGE OF ROCKTON
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, May 15, 2019
6:00 P.M.

Minutes

Chair Chris Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

I. Roll Call

Present: Chris Anderson, Clinton Cole, Mary Anne Mathwich, Mark Meichtry, Sheryl Peterson and Ann Rogge

Absent: Rory Mulligan

Staff Absent: Planning & Development Administrator Patricia Diduch.

II. Approval of April 10, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve made by Mr. Cole. Second by Ms. Mathwich. Minutes approved unanimously, 6-0.

III. Summer 2019 Walking Tour - Discussion

Ms. Mathwich gave a recap of the practice walking tour. She also stated preparations for the July walking tour is underway. She added that much of the inspiration is coming from Edson Carr's book on Rockton. Tour logistics were discussed as well as tour marketing.

IV. National Historic District

Mr. Cole gave a brief description of the conversation from the last meeting from the April meeting minutes. Ms. Mathwich added more information about the facts she has gathered regarding the district and financial incentives. She expressed desire for the Commission to create an incentive informational sheet for property owners. Ms. Diduch explained her follow up with past tour participants and the Darius meeting attendees who wanted more information. Ms. Diduch stated that the interested people did not continue on in the process beyond that initial contact. Ms. Mathwich asked for clarification of why they did not proceed, and Ms. Diduch replied that she did not know why people do not take advantage of the financial benefits. She described the information she gave them. Ms. Diduch explained that she has spoken with several downtown Rockton property owners about the incentives, and that the property owners do not seem to want to deal with the government regulation.

Ms. Mathwich and Mr. Cole discussed creating a presentation based off of Darius' presentation that would be more relatable to Rockton residents by using more local examples. The Commission discussed property values and assessments as it relates to the financial incentive programs.

Mr. Anderson volunteered to edit Darius' presentation into one that would be more relatable to Rockton property owners.

V. State Financial Incentives

Discussed as part of the National Historic District agenda item.

VI. Village Communication

Ms. Diduch gave a brief history of the creation of the Commission and its beginning years since 2015. She described her role as the staff liaison. She added that it would be a great idea to take the revised Darius presentation to the Village Board to refresh their knowledge of how historic preservation can be an economic incentive to the community. She also described the Village's efforts to save the Balsley house and Rockton Grade School by including them as parts of the downtown TIF district and business district, and that multiple opportunities were sought to have those properties redeveloped. She added that the communication between the Village and public at large regarding those efforts should be improved.

VII. Old Business

None.

VIII. New Business

Ms. Diduch explained that Mr. Mulligan was not reappointed to the Commission because of his very frequent absences due to his work and vacation schedules but is hopeful that he will remain a valuable resource to the Commission.

Ms. Diduch stated she would reach out to area universities to see how the Village and college can collaborate on projects. Ms. Mathwich also mentioned the need to talk to Belvidere about their commissioner requirements.

IX. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Meichtry. Second by Mr. Cole. Meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm.