

Town of Newburgh
Historic Preservation Commission
October 14, 2021
Meeting held via Zoom – All Participants attended virtually

Members Present:

Jim Renne, Heather Cutrell, David Wills, Don Shanks

Advisory Members Present:

Candice Croix and Sue Morrison

Administrative Present:

Stacie Krieger, Town Council Liaison; Chris Wischer, Town Attorney; Tavi Wydicks, Zoning Administrator

Members & Administrative Absent:

Troy Wells, Brent Grafe, Jeff Cox

Citizens Present:

Mr. & Mrs. Basinski, 24 W. Jennings Street

Paul Elpers, Elpers Brothers Construction

Reading, Correction, and Approval of Previous Minutes:

David Wills moved to approve the July and September meeting minutes. Don Shanks seconded the motion and the motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Heather Cutrell – Yes David Wills - Yes

Don Shanks – Yes Jim Renne – Yes

REPORTS:

Town Council Liaison:

Stacie Krieger stated that Council met last night and held a public hearing for the Town budget. Ms. Krieger stated that the Town is in a good position for 2022.

Indiana Landmarks Southwest Field Office:

Jim Renne stated that Indiana Landmarks had a job offer out, but the offer was not accepted, so they are still looking to fill the position.

Newburgh Neighbor Committee:

Tavi Wydicks stated that the Committee met earlier this month. Ms. Wydicks stated that the ONB grant was not approved, so the Committee is discussing fundraiser options.

Certified Local Government:

Tavi Wydicks stated that Jim, Heather, and herself attended the Preserving Historic Places CAMP, and Jim and herself also attended the Preserving Historic Places conference. Ms. Wydicks stated that several of the conference sessions are available for online viewing, so she wanted to see if the Commission would be interested in viewing some of the sessions and then completing a sign off sheet stating they had viewed them. Ms. Wydicks stated that the Town gets dinged every year in the CLG audit for lack of continuing education, so she was thinking that this could help meet that requirement. Ms. Wydicks stated that she created a similar training program for staff for MS4 in order to meeting the yearly training requirements and the program was approved by IDEM. The Commission discussed the continuing education requirements and directed staff to create the program.

Unfinished Business:

Discussion – District Expansion

Chris Wischer stated that the documents would be ready for the next meeting.

Discussion – 221 State Street Garage

Tavi Wydicks stated that this item will remain on hold until back to in person meetings.

New Business:

COA Application – 24 W. Jennings Street

Paul Elpers stated that he provided the plans and a copy of the agreement between the Basinski's and the neighboring property owners to allow the land at 20 W. Jennings to be disturbed so the wall can be placed on the property line of 24 W. Jennings. Mr. Elpers stated that he knows there is concern regarding the height of the wall and railing combination. Mr. Elpers stated that the large tree at the southwest corner of the property was an oversight on the landscaping plan, and that the tree would remain. Chris Wischer stated that the tree is in the Town's right of way. Mr. Elpers stated that the tree will not be touched, but they would like to fix the sidewalk around the tree and clean up the area. The Commission discussed whose responsibility it is to repair sidewalks. Jim Renne asked the Commission members if they had any concern with the proposed plantings and fence material, and the Commission members answered no. Mr. Renne asked if the wall would be completely on the 24 W. Jennings Street property, and Mr. Elpers answered and stated that the wall will be, but the footer may go over on to the neighboring property about four inches.

Don Shanks moved to approve the COA application as presented. David Wills seconded the motion and the motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Heather Cutrell – Yes	David Wills - Yes
Don Shanks – Yes	Jim Renne – Yes

Possible Signage for Original Historic District

Jim Renne stated that he attended an interesting conference session and part of the discussion were Towns used special signage to identify when entering a Historic District. Mr. Renne stated that he thought it would be a good addition to the Town to at least identify the Core District. Sue Morrison and David Wills both stated that they liked the idea, and Mr. Wills questioned if the Town had funding available for this type of project. Tavi Wydicks stated that she would check into available funding. Chris Wischer stated that HNI is going to be doing a Wayfinding sign project soon, so maybe HPC could work with HNI to include historic signage.

Mr. Wischer stated that Council just approved the new sign ordinance last night. Mr. Wischer noted that the sign ordinance does not make a distinction between core and expanded historic districts, and it does not include clarification if all districts/properties, rating or not, would require HPC review. Ms. Wydicks discussed the current process for sign approval with the Commission. Mr. Renne determined to leave it as is at least for now.

Announcements:

Don Shanks stated that he is moving outside of Newburgh Town limits, so this would be his last meeting as he is no longer eligible to serve.

Sue Morrison stated that she was interviewed by John Gibson and would love to share the interview and story link with the Commission for anyone interested.

Petitions and Comments from Citizens Present:

None.

Adjourn:

David Wills moved to adjourn the meeting. Heather Cutrell seconded the motion and the motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Heather Cutrell – Yes	David Wills - Yes
Don Shanks – Yes	Jim Renne – Yes

Approved @ Virtual Meeting 11/9/2021
Chair

T. W. Pluck
Recorder