

ALGONQUIN HISTORIC COMMISSION

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING

January 18, 2025

9:00 AM

Held at Historic Village Hall – 2 South Main Street – Algonquin

CALL TO ORDER – ESTABLISH QUORUM

Present: Chairman Lewis and Members Donahue, Himes, Jolitz, Teuber, and Thompson.

APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF DECEMBER 11, 2024 AND WORKSHOP MEETING OF DECEMBER 21, 2024

Moved Member Jolitz; Seconded Chairman Lewis.

Voice Vote: All Ayes. Minutes Approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT – AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Members continued discussion of plans for a new order for historic identification signs for homes/buildings in the Old Town District and notifying owners of all homes/buildings built during the relevant period of the opportunity to order a new/replacement sign. Member Thompson confirmed after inquiry that the current vendor quote of \$95 to \$100 per sign (depending on quantity) remains firm through March 31, 2025. Members plan to finalize the notification mailing to property owners at upcoming Workshops.

Members continued discussion of efforts to recruit new Commission volunteers/members and some potential candidates who may be available and interested. Member Teuber reported on the continuing availability of a recent student volunteer.

Members discussed possible plans for a springtime Commission exhibit at the Main Village Hall and a future exhibit at the Harnish Library later in the year, one honoring over a hundred years of service to the Community by Algonquin State Bank, and the other honoring the Congregational Church's 175th anniversary this year. Members will first tackle the Village Hall exhibit at upcoming Workshops and Monday workdays, and then move on to a new exhibit for the Harnish Library in later months.

Members reported on progress recently made modifying and improving storage of the Commission's historic postcard and photo archives using new storage containers obtained by Member Jolitz to store and protect valuable documents/photographs/postcards from damage by water, sprinklers, flooding, etc. Members also discussed possible reorganization of these collections and a possible new filing system to make items easier to locate and retrieve.

Members continued discussion of the Commission's next fiscal budget due to be proposed to Village Staff by end of January 2025. Members discussed increasing the Commission's next fiscal budget from the \$2,500 allotted last year to \$3,000, in order to accommodate

additional necessities and recent price increases. The Commission also notes that it has sought no increase in its budget in several years. Possible new budget items include the Commission's membership in the McHenry County Historical Society (\$1,000); archival supplies (\$700); miscellaneous additional supplies (\$500); and drycleaning services for Commission display cloths/linens (\$200). These items would be in addition to the Commission's routinely required supplies/expenses.

APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR PAYMENT

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Members Jolitz and Donahue reported on installation of the new holiday Commission exhibit in the display case at the Main Village Hall featuring Algonquin local toymaker and historic winter activities. Plans for future exhibits at the Main Village Hall and Harnish Library are noted above.

Chairman Lewis and Member Donahue reported on communications with the Algonquin Library about a possible Commission presentation for Library patrons and plans to follow up again to firm up any such plans.

Members discussed potential Commission presentations/events and participation in local events in 2025, including plans for a second annual Commission Open House during the Art on the Fox event on Main Street on September 6 and 7, 2025. Members considered possible displays for the Commission Open House event in particular, including "Then and Now" photos, trivia games, etc.

CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Lewis reported on a voicemail inquiry regarding a Commission "museum," to which he replied by advising of the dates of upcoming Workshops.

Member Donahue reported on an inquiry from the Algonquin Library about making possible donations of historic documents/artifacts to the Commission. The items were not suitable for donation, but Member Donahue provided information on donation guidelines and other inquiries about Commission activities.

Members were reminded of the Commission Workshops on January 18 (called to order immediately after this Special Meeting) and 25, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Lewis moved, and Member Jolitz seconded, that the Special Meeting be adjourned and the regular Workshop Meeting be called to order at 9:53 am.

Secretary

Date Approved