

ALGONQUIN HISTORIC COMMISSION

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

March 14, 2018

7:00 P.M.

Held at Historic Village Hall - 2 South Main St. — Algonquin

Call to order – Establish Quorum

Present: Chairman Jolitz and Members Purn, Himes, Lewis, Pawula, Firek and Zange.

Approval Minutes of Minutes of Regular Business Meeting of February 14, and Workshop Meetings of February 17, 2018 and February 24, 2018

Moved: Member Zange; Seconded: Member Himes

Voice Vote: All Ayes. Minutes Approved.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PUBLIC HEARING:

Public Hearing for Consideration of a Major Improvement in the Old Town District – Case No. PC18-01, 102 N. Harrison Street for demolition of the existing residential structure and pole barn. Petitioner: Ed Wolowiec, UCF Riverside, LLC.

VILLAGE STAFF PRESENTATION

Staff feels a Certificate of Appropriateness to demolish the building in question is reasonable and meets the intent of the Preservation Code. A waiting period for a Demolition Permit would not be compulsory as Section 10.12.2 of the Preservation Code allows an exemption from the two-year waiting period when the structure itself has limited historical/architectural value and a delay in demolition would not further the purposes of the Preservation Code. Staff recommends that a Certificate of Appropriateness be approved for the demolition as submitted.

The existing buildings on the property are not of significant architectural interest that their removal would be a detriment to the public interest. The residential structure was rated a 4/10 in the Historic Commission's Old Town Survey and is a vernacular mid-20th century ranch style home.

The demolition of the building will not affect the aesthetic cohesiveness of the Old Town District as a whole. The building has limited historic architectural significance

and retention would not have a substantial effect toward helping preserve and protect the general standards of the Old Town District Preservation Code. There are numerous other examples of similar ranch homes within the Old Town District – such as can be commonly found on S. Hubbard Street and S. River Road – as well as throughout the community as a whole.

With regards to whether retention of the existing buildings would promote the general welfare by maintaining and increasing real estate values, generate additional business in the Old Town District, create new employment opportunities, attract tourists, encourage study and interest in the village's history, or make the village a more attractive and desirable place to live, in fact, the opposite is true. The property is situated within a business zoning district and its repurposing as an off-street parking facility will improve the viability of the retail spaces within the Riverside Plaza development and increase foot traffic downtown.

Chairman Jolitz reminded Commission members that only this one parcel is under consideration for demolition at this Hearing, and that any discussion or action by the Commission on this Hearing shall have no impact or influence on any possible future Hearings that may arise covering adjacent buildings or parcels. Ben mason agreed.

MOTION:

In general Commission members were in agreement with staff recommendations regarding this request for demolition. Following brief discussion, a Motion was made by Member Himes, seconded by Member Zange, that the Building Commissioner issue the requested Certificate of Appropriateness for demolition of the buildings at 102 N. Harrison Street. Motion was repeated, being no further discussion on the matter a roll call vote was taken, All Ayes.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Current Exhibits in Library and Village Hall lobby cases – members will work on new exhibit at Workshop meeting-subject old Algonquin Baseball teams, incl vintage uniform, trophies, and photos from 1930's to 1940's.
- b. Report on participation in Chamber of Commerce 02/24 - About the same number of people attended but more exhibitors. It was more organized than previous years. Visitors were surprised that we offered Workshops to learn about history. Maybe the village should publicize it on the calendar or put it in the water bill Newsletter. Not all residents have a computer or internet access.

APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR PAYMENT:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Archive item donations – Acceptance, Preservation, and Storage
 - 1) Chairman Jolitz brought up the fact that certain donated items to the commission have been modified in the collection from their original form. Including photos being removed from original backing, decorative vintage mats, frames etc and Accessioning numbers and parts of the donations have been excised/removed. Many Photos and donations have been trimmed significantly from original size. Jolitz asks commission whether donations should be kept in their original form. Member Zange thinks that they should be kept in their original form and as were donated and that the Vintage mating, frames etc are all part of the item and just as important as the photo, he also felt that in general photo albums and scrapbooks should also be preserved in original donated form in the archives as well, and not torn apart. Firek also believes that they should kept in their original form, so they keep their integrity. Himes, Pawula, and Lewis concurs. Jolitz put forward that all donations should be kept in their original form and that any removal or alternation of items should be put to a vote on an item by item basis as the item is accepted into the collection. Jolitz argues that we should not accept items if we cannot correctly Accession and Preserve them. Jolitz wants to make sure going forward that all members are on the same page and have the same mission: Preservation of items in the Archives in Complete and Original form.

CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND OTHER BUSINESS:

Member Purn researched historical information on two old time village homes, 114 and 103 Division St, for Coleen Ingram.

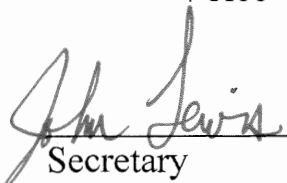
Chairman Jolitz reported about the Joint Council of Historic Groups spring meeting on 03/21 at McHenry County Historical Soc. with Sen. Pam Althoff.

Member Purn thought it would be a good idea to get a leaf on the tree of honor as part of the Village's Trees of Honor Recognition Tree Program for Marie Coleman. Chairman Jolitz believed it was a great idea to honor her service to the commission and village. Members agreed .

ADJOURNMENT:

Member Himes moved and Member Lewis seconded, that the meeting be adjourned.

Voice Vote: All Ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.


Secretary


Date Approved