

ALGONQUIN HISTORIC COMMISSION

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

April 10, 2019

7:00 P.M.

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

Call to order – Establish Quorum

Present: Chairman Jolitz, Members Purn, Zange, Dombrowski, and Lewis

Approval Minutes of Minutes of Regular Business Meeting of March 13, and Workshop Meetings of March 16 and March 23, 2019.

Moved: Member Zange; Seconded: Member Dombrowski

Voice Vote: All Ayes. Minutes Approved.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PUBLIC HEARING:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Continuing Main Street work & around HVH. – They are putting bricks in plaza, so we will soon be able to enter HVH walking on the buildings south side.
- b. Commission's Images Archives – Photos, Postcards, etc. – The Commission must continue to work on this and finish establishing provenance and ownership of original photos & images in the archives.

APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR PAYMENT:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Information request ref 107 S. Main St.– ca 1925 Algonquin Bakery building. – Greg Geigel contacted the commission regarding the feasibility of raising the center door. The village would like him to have a raised ramp for change in accessibility, however raising the door would destroy many of the architectural elements of the building and cover up all the Black Granite finished terracotta along the present sidewalk level. After learning more about the architectural significance of the building and the damage such work would do to the historical value and negative impact on the appearance of the building which Greg really likes presently, Greg said would really like to avoid making any changes to the original front of the structure and instead put an entrance with ramp on the north side of the building, or on the backside of the building. Especially with the plans the Village has for a larger and improved parking lot along Harrison Street. Greg knows that Doors at the

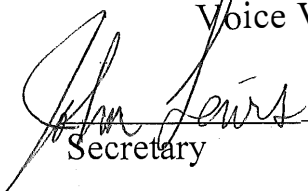
rear of the building facing Harrison may likely one day become the buildings primary entrance used by patrons, just as it is already with many of the businesses on the east side on Main Street including the Bank, Cassandra Strings, the Funeral Home, the Mexican Restaurant, etc. And in addition, with all the traffic and visibility on Harrison Street, and Cornish Park he would rather make improvements to the buildings look and access at the rear of the building and the north side, which will face the new Crystal Creek Walk when completed. He will seek the Commission out when he sees his architects preliminary concept plans. He likes the front of the building and would not like to change it. It was designed by Ralph Abell with all of the original Terra Cotta elements, features, and doors. The Commission believes that the front of the building should NOT be altered. And such a drastic change is certainly against the requirements and intent of Village Preservation Code. This is the ONLY vintage building remaining in Algonquin with this impressive and irreplaceable terracotta work. Greg was thrilled to learn that the building could very likely be a viable candidate for placement on the National Register of Historic Places, due to its pristine original Terracotta front façade and the fact that it was designed by prominent architect Ralf Abell, with some other of his buildings already on the National Register. The Commission offered to help Greg complete paperwork whenever he desires to move forward with seeking the prestigious designation for the building.

CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND OTHER BUSINESS:

- a. Jeff Jolitz attended the Village Board meeting and had questions about the white markings on sidewalks. Jolitz was told by Michelle Zimmerman that the sidewalks with white markings are slated for removal or alteration. Chairman Jolitz pointed out that some of those sidewalks (six of the squares) are Historic with the names of the original homeowners inscribed in the cement squares and date back to 1910. Michelle Zimmerman said that those walks with names and the adjacent cement hitching posts would be preserved. Staff will watch out for all those particular pieces of cement and the retention of the last two original hitching posts in Old Town Algonquin.
- b. Donald Purn purchased another Phebe Dunn circus card.
- c. Donations: Connie Jacobsen-pictures and Claire Falk-Algonquin Belt buckles.
- d. Purn also received some digital copies of photos from Edward Urban and was told that the fire at the Toastmaster factory was caused by “ghost hunters”.
- e. Member Purn and Chairman Jolitz attended the March Meeting of McHenry Country historic groups and also visited the Terracotta factory & Museum.

ADJOURNMENT:

Member Dombrowski moved and Zange seconded, meeting be adjourned.
Voice Vote: All Ayes. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.


Secretary


Date Approved