

VILLAGE OF GRAFTON

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 10, 2009

The Historic Preservation Commission meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. by Trustee James Grant in the absence of Chairman Ralph Zaun. (Trustee Grant was acting Chair for this meeting)

Commission members present: Trustee Jim Grant, Sheldon Sepstead, Norb Studelska, Sr., Matt Zipter

Absent: Chair Ralph Zaun, Trustee David Liss, Matt Zipter, Judy Baer

Staff/Officials present: Mary Kay Buratto, AICP

Others present: Angela Mack, 1701 Eleventh Avenue, Melissa Schmitz, 111 W. Bridge Street, Gina and Madeline Studelska, 1125 Vienna Court, and Nancy and Lisa Chin, 559 Greenfield Drive

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None.

HEAR PERSONS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD

None.

PRESENTATION OF PROPOSAL TO SCAN HISTORIC GLASS PHOTOGRAPHIC NEGATIVES

Two members of Girl Scout Troop 286, Madeline Studelska and Lisa Chin, along with their leaders, appeared before the Commission seeking direction on plans they have for earning a Girl Scout Gold Award by preserving the photos that appear on hundreds of glass negatives at Michael Matthies photo studio. The Gold Award is the Girl Scouts highest honor and is similar to the Boy Scouts Eagle Scout Award.

Gina Studelska and Nancy Chin, troop leaders, will be working with the girls and explained to the Commission the role that the Scouts will play in this project. The girls are on a fact finding mission and are seeking direction and encouragement from the Commission. They believe that the photos represent a significant amount of Grafton history. Along with the Scouts and their leaders was Mr. Rick Bate, a photographer who is currently assisting Michael Matthies at his studio. Mr. Bate brought along information on the scanner that will be needed to copy the negatives from the glass plates. He explained what is needed and how the equipment would assist the Scouts. He also gave suggestions on how the scanner can be used by the Historic Preservation Commission and the Village in the future.

The cost of the scanner and software for this project totals \$1000. The Girl Scouts regulations prohibit the girls from raising money for this equipment since it will only be used by them but would be owned by the Village. Commissioners and the Scouts discussed possible ways of funding the purchase of the equipment.

Trustee Grant spoke to the fact that the Village has no money in the 2009 budget for such an expenditure. The Historic Preservation Commission could ask for the amount to be included in the budget for 2010, but he believes that the best chance for obtaining the money to purchase the equipment is through private fundraising. Trustee Grant further stated that the Historic Preservation Commission may endorse the project but unfortunately cannot provide the funding needed.

Additional work related to the preservation of the photos that the Girl Scouts can do includes uploading photos to a website, attempt identify persons, buildings and sites in the photos and provide addresses when available. They could present the photo collection to Grafton senior citizens who then might be able to help identify the persons and buildings in the photos and possibly the occasion that prompted the photo to be taken. The Scouts would also be willing to prepare an exhibition at the Library of their work.

Planner Mary Kay Buratto asked how ownership of the glass plates and the scanned negatives would be handled. Commissioners suggested that Village Attorney Mike Herbrand be asked about who would have rights to both.

Commissioners further discussed that having the scanned photos would spur interest in the creation of a Grafton Museum to house the photos and other artifacts that are available but cannot be collected without space to store and display them. Suggestions were made about several ways that the photos can be used to promote Grafton, one of which was to create lamp post banners of some of the photos. Another idea was to display groups of photos at different public buildings and at Grafton events.

Trustee Grant suggested that the Scouts contact the local papers to discuss their project and to get exposure that will help raise public awareness of the need to preserve this treasure. Angela Mack offered to work with the Girl Scouts to prepare a press release about their project and the need for raising the \$1000 for the scanner and software. Ms. Mack hopes to have the press release ready for review and consideration at the June 24, 2009 HPC meeting.

By consensus, Commissioners agreed to have a recommendation to the Village Board accepting and endorsing the Girl Scout project placed on the agenda of the June 24, 2009 HPC meeting.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

None.

SET DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission will be held on Wednesday, June 24, 2009 at 6:30 p.m., in the upper level Committee Room.

ADJOURN

Motion by Commissioner Zipter, seconded by Commissioner Sepstead, to adjourn at 7:17 p.m. Approved unanimously.