

**Village of Mantua  
Historic Landmarks Commission  
Minutes of Meeting: December 21, 2013**

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Pollard called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Commissioners Present: Ms. Pollard, Mr. Ehlert, Mr. Stamm, Mr. Hummel, Ms. Hazlett, and Mr. Snopek.

Commissioners Absent: Ms. Henry

Citizens Present: Ms. Vechery

Motion by Mr. Hummel to excuse Ms. Henry. Seconded by Mr. Snopek All ayes. Ms. Henry excused.

**3. Approval of the Minutes of Meeting: August 28, 2013**

Motion to approve the minutes without amendment made by Mr. Stamm. Seconded by Mr. Ehlert. All ayes. Minutes approved without amendment.

**4. Calendar Year**

Motion by Mr. Hummel that the Commission's calendar be on the calendar year basis, thereby making today's meeting the last meeting of the Commission's "year." Motion seconded by Mr. Snopek. All ayes.

**5. First Review of Records**

Pursuant to Ord. 159.07, the Commission reviewed its records for completeness. Motion by Mr. Snopek that the minutes reflect that the Commission has reviewed its records and found them complete. Seconded by Mr. Ehlert. All ayes.

**6. Secretary's Report**

Mr. Snopek provided the Commission with copies of: (1) correspondence to the Mayor dated December 20, 2013, and; (2) copies of a document entitled "Certified Local Government Guidelines" published by the Ohio Historical Society.

Mr. Snopek reviewed some ideas and discussion from the last meeting and in regard to the old concrete street corner posts. Mr. Hummel suggested that Mr. Stamm's grandfather may have played a role in creating the old corner posts.

Mr. Ehlert inquired when the posts may have been placed. There was some discussion, and Chair Pollard suggested that Dr. Knowlton may also have played a role in creating and erecting the posts. There was general agreement that the posts are of historic significance and unique to Mantua, especially given their characteristic reverse "N."

There was some discussion, particularly aided by Mr. Hummel and Mr. Stamm, of the technical and practical aspects of recreating one of the posts.

Chair Pollard suggested the D.M.R.C. might like to get involved.

Mr. Stamm volunteered to begin experimenting with creating a reproduction of the post at the corner of Canada Road and Main Street. This may aid in getting an idea of the work and costs involved.

## **7. Chair's Report and Discussion**

Chair Pollard introduced an invited guest, Ms. Terri Vechery. Ms. Vechery was instrumental in leading the effort to obtain passage of the ordinance establishing the Historic Landmarks Commission.

Ms. Vechery reviewed the records of the Commission and complimented the Commission on what it had thus far accomplished in its brief existence.

Ms. Vechery also helped the Commission understand the importance of seeking and obtaining Certified Local Government status, and was happy to engage the Commission with questions, answers and discussion. Ms. Vechery spoke further on opportunities for obtaining grants to help with historic preservation, and offered that she and her friend and fellow preservation enthusiast, Ms. Ehlert, may be willing to assist with research. Ms. Vechery may also be willing to write articles on the Commission's work.

There was some discussion of how fortunate the village was to already have so many properties listed on the National Register. Ms. Vechery and Ms. Pollard were recently involved in the effort to obtain National Register status for the Mantua Center School, and are mindful of how difficult and time-consuming the process can be.

Ms. Vechery encouraged the Commission to meet with historical societies, and think of ways of involving young people in our local preservation efforts. Ms. Pollard provided the suggestion that it might be helpful to attend the meetings of other historic preservation commissions, and Ms. Pollard updated the Commission on research she has done into the methods other locales are utilizing to involve young people in historic preservation.

There was more discussion on the process/procedure of becoming a Certified Local Government.

Chair Pollard spoke very briefly on the Building Doctors program offered through the Ohio Historic Preservation Office. The Chair also spoke on another resource in the form of written briefs to aid in historic preservation, and the Chair offered that she is happy to share any resources she has discovered with the Commission.

Chair Pollard informed the Commission that she will be attending an upcoming historic preservation conference in Columbus.

The Chair encouraged the publicizing of the Commission's activities.

**8. Second Review of Records**

The records were again made available for the Commission's review pursuant to Ord. 159.07. Motion by Mr. Snopek that the minutes reflect that the Commission has reviewed its records and found them complete. Seconded by Ms. Hazlett. All ayes.

**9. Identifying Activities to Extend Into 2014**

Mr. Hummel suggested the following priorities for the Commission's work in 2014:

1. Apply for Certified Local Government status;
2. Inventory buildings, and;
3. Apply for grants.

There was general agreement that these were good priorities and goals for 2014.

Chair Pollard suggested the Commission consider a field trip to look at some old buildings.

**10. Set Schedule of Meetings for 2014**

There was some discussion about how often the Commissioners would like to meet and when they would like to meet.

Motion by Mr. Hummel that the Commission have four meetings per year, once per quarter, with Mr. Snopek to coordinate schedules with the Commissioners, and notify the Village Clerk-Treasurer. Seconded by Mr. Snopek. All ayes.

There was then some discussion on when to have meetings. By general agreement and consensus it was agreed as follows:

1. Meetings should be scheduled in the last month of each quarter, and;
2. The Commission is willing to continue to meet on Saturday mornings.

**11. Before the Next Meeting**

The Chair asked the Commission what it would like to do before the next meeting.

Ms. Hazlett suggested utilizing the Commissioner's individual letters of interest (submitted in application to serve on the Commission) as resumes for purposes of applying for CLG status.

Mr. Stamm made motion that Commissioners each submit a resume to Chair Pollard by February 1, 2014. Mr. Hummel seconded. All ayes.

The Chair offered to take resumes/letters of interest with her when she meets with Mr. Bevil from the Ohio Historic Preservation Office and perhaps obtain Mr. Bevil's input and/or suggestions for strengthening our CLG application

Mr. Snopek is to begin assembling materials and drafting a CLG application for the Commissions' review in March. If the Commission finds the application satisfactory it may then submit to Mayor Clark.

## **12. Other Discussion**

Mr. Hummel began a discussion on certain concerns and questions he has about the levels of bureaucratic power commissions may impose upon others. A wide ranging discussion followed touching upon the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of certain village ordinances, commissions and officials – among other topics.

Mr. Hummel asked the Commission to consider in good faith, the feasibility of its continued operation. He reminded the Commission that it has real powers that have potentially serious consequences for people and their property.

At one point, Mr. Snopek also questioned whether this Commission should continue to exist.

## **13. Adjournment**

Mr. Stamm motioned to adjourn. Mr. Hummel seconded. All ayes.

### **MINUTES APPROVED WITHOUT AMENDMENT:**

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Chair Pollard

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Secretary Snopek

**MINUTES APPROVED AS AMENDED:**

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Chair Pollard

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Secretary Snopek