

Landmark Commission Meeting  
Mantua Village Hall  
December 27, 2014

Call to Order

Chair Carol Pollard called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

Roll Call

Commissioners present: Hal Stamm, Helen Hazlett, Carol Pollard, Renee Henry

Commissioner Nick Ehlert was absent.

Mayor Linda Clark was present.

Motion to excuse Eric Hummel made by Renee. Motion seconded by Hal. All ayes. Eric Hummel was excused. Helen said Aaron had called her and said he wasn't coming to the meeting. Renee motioned to excuse Aaron. Carol moved on to the minutes.

Minutes from the September 27, 2014 meeting

Carol Pollard pointed out a correction on page 2 to name: should be Dawn Pechman instead of Peckman.

Renee signed in place of Secretary.

Motion to approve the minutes with the correction made by Hal. Motion seconded by Renee. All ayes.

Minutes of the September meeting were approved as amended.

Secretary position

(Back to Roll Call. Carol had misunderstood Helen when she said Aaron had called her to tell her he wasn't coming to the meeting. Hal motioned Aaron be excused, Renee seconded. All ayes. Aaron Snopek was excused.)

Renee Henry volunteered to take the open secretary position. Motion to approve Renee Henry as secretary made by Helen. Motion seconded by Carol. All ayes. The motion was approved.

CLG Status Report

Nathan Bevil sent a letter to Mayor Linda Clark informing her the Landmark Commission has met the

federal and state guidelines. Carol Pollard had requested a copy of the letter which she read to the Commission members. He included three copies of the Certified Local Government Agreement of Certification which Mayor Linda Clark will sign the form and mail back to him on Monday. He will then forward the application packet to the National Park Service for final approval. Once she has signed, she will put a copy of the letter and form in the Landmark Commission's binder since it will then be public record. A copy will be sent to Renee Henry, secretary.

After the approval has been given by the National Park Service, the Landmark Commission members will be eligible for training by Nathan Bevil. Carol Pollard asked if the DMRC members could take part in the training. Mayor Clark will ask for approval from Mantua Village Council at the January meeting.

Linda Clark mentioned that Council members commented that the approval process has proceeded much quicker than they thought it would. They had thought it would take about another year.

Carol Pollard will check with Nathan Bevil to see if he can attend the spring meeting of the Landmark Commission to do the training.

#### Next Steps

Carol Pollard gave each person a copy of notes she had taken when she interviewed Ron Lowe of the Aurora Preservation Office on July 24, 2014. To prepare for our future training she asked that we review the notes and the steps that the Aurora Preservation took to collect inventory documentation, grants, community database, resources from local colleges and maps. She included copies of their forms as well.

If anyone has comments or questions on the interview notes they can let Carol know. She can contact Rob Lowe, if needed, to get clarification.

Hal inquired if anyone knew if tax maps from the past (1900's) had been computerized. Helen said you can go to the county web site and enter an address and get a site map and information on it from there. Hal said he's used the GIS quite often. He'd like to look at a 1900 tax map and will see if there is one available on the web.

Helen said one can walk the village since it's small and identify properties

Carol Pollard pointed out that a surprising number of Mantua buildings are on the National Registry. There are three different levels: the National Registry of Historic Places, Ohio Historic Inventory (if a building has been listed in the National Registry or in the Ohio Historic Inventory, it does not have any protection from being altered or destroyed). At the local level, however, the local designation as being

an historic building is important for its preservation. The Aurora commission took inventory and asked residents to sign up their buildings voluntarily. In doing so the homeowner agrees to abide by the rules to preserve their building according to historic guidelines.

Helen asked if certain materials would be allowed, for example a metal roof on a century home. Mayor Clark pointed out that only exterior improvements will be under our purview and not interior remodeling.

Carol added that according to Nathan the National Park Service guidelines can be consulted, but there may be some leeway to avoid losing a building completely.

Renee suggested this sort of question will be addressed during our training and we can get clarification on what is allowed and what isn't.

Helen attended a real estate class recently given by Charles Bobinger of Akron on architectural styles of houses. She suggested this as a good educational program that interested members of the community could attend, which the Landmark Commission could sponsor in the future. She said the class she attended was \$20 a person which is not expensive and it was well worth the price.

Carol suggested we could invite people who we know would be interested and ask if they know of others who would be interested especially if they have a century home, to invite them as well.

To conclude Next Steps, Carol repeated that the next major step will be Nathan Bevil's training this spring.

#### Review Documents of the Commission's Binder

The binder's contents have been added to since our last review in June 2014. The additional documents are meeting minutes and a copy of the application to the State of Ohio. Carol had put in it an unofficial copy of Nathan Bevil's letter to Mayor Clark, who will replace it with an official copy once she has signed the form and it is officially part of the public record.

Linda always gets copied whenever Nathan Bevil sends mail to the Landmark Commission's Secretary (Aaron or Nick). She was able to get information that Nathan needed from the binder, scan it and put it back in the Binder.

Linda was already given approval by Mantua Village Council to sign the application and does not have to present it to the council before sending it to Nathan. She has prepared the cover letter to attach to the application.

Motion to approve the document binder as reviewed and accepted was made by Hal. Motion seconded by Renee. All ayes. Review of the commission's document binder was approved.

#### 2015 Meeting dates

There are 4 meetings per year unless additional meetings are deemed necessary. Carol wondered if when we meet with Nathan if that would be considered an official Landmark Commission meeting. Helen said why not; it would be a very productive meeting.

Carol said it would occur at Nathan's convenience.

Carol discussed how to best advertise meeting dates. Mayor Clark added that Jenny can advertise the meetings more inexpensively on the Village's web page if we set them all in advance for 2015.

Carol's first thought that we could set the 1st Saturday of 3 months of each quarter. However, sometimes the first of the month is bad for people who have businesses.

Mayor Clark suggested we set our meetings so that they occur prior to Mantua Village Council which meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

That way if the Council has to take an action or be informed of something, there won't be a long lapse of time.

Hal stated the second Saturday would work best as Carol had suggested. It was decided that the Landmark Commission meetings will take place in 2015 on Saturday mornings at 10:30 a.m.

March 14

June 13

September 12

December 12

Hal maybe on vacation for the September meeting.

Linda suggested that Jenny not advertise the meeting dates until we hear back from Nathan in case March 14 doesn't work for him. Linda said the first time they had met with Nathan was on a weekend.

Carol will see if the March date is acceptable for Nathan Bevil since we will need to be trained during our spring meeting.

#### Other

Discussed was:

The fact that the village is 1 mile square.

There could be some locations which would be of archaeological interest and which would fall under the purview of historical preservation.

In this regard Hal suggested Wilson's property was said to have a "mound" which would be interesting to look into. Is it a geographical feature or man made?

The glass factory was in the township and not part of the village.

Hal said Canada Road was made to give potato farmers an easier way to get their harvest to the train station.

Carol mentioned she had heard that Italiano's was at one time a Ford dealership. Hal said the Ford dealership was where Falls & Stebens is. Dodge was in town. Helen said across the street was the Dodge dealership and Ford was where Italiano's is now. Before the Ford dealership, early automobile may have been shipped to Mantua and the automobiles assembled in the building. Renee suggested it may have started as a shop where buggies and carriages or wagons were assembled like the renovated mill in Garrettsville.

Motion to approve the meeting dates made by Hal. Motion seconded by Renee. All ayes. Meeting dates were approved.

Mayor Linda Clark let us know that Paul Janson has an interesting book of early Mantua buildings and she'll see if we can get a copy to look at.

Helen found a postcard of her home signed by Mary Alger in 1909 when she was surfing the internet. She would like to know when the steeple had been removed from the church.

Carol will let Nick know Renee has taken the Secretary position.

We discussed the terms of office for each Landmark Commission member. Mayor Clark noted that Mantua Village Council set up staggered terms so that every year two different members will have the opportunity to renew for a three year term. Renee found a copy of the list of members in the binder, but the terms for each person is only penciled in and the document was not dated. For 2015 Renee Henry and Carol Pollard will renew. Last year Hal Stamm and Helen Hazlet renewed. Linda said she will get the council's formal copy and add it to the binder.

Note: the following conversation (indented) was not in the Secretary's notes because it took place while Renee was looking through the binder to find information on terms of office. She was not taking minutes during that time.

Later Mayor Linda Clark requested by e-mail that the Secretary add it to the minutes since it is on the recording.

Hal asked about what should be done with items brought in, for example Paul Janson's book that Mayor Linda had mentioned.

Carol said the Mantua Historical Society was formed before the township and village split and that the Mantua Historical Society covered both the township and village. The Historical Society has the resources to archive such articles.

This led to a discussion if the township and village would ever reunite again as nearby communities have done, namely Aurora and Streetsboro. Carol said a certified local government that would incorporate the township and village would be helpful. However, in her opinion if the township and village were to be combined, she wouldn't like to see them become a city of 25 square miles.

Hal answered that given the small population in such a case it would probably remain a village. Also, Carol added that such a change might not be acceptable to many residents. Helen stated that maybe they would appreciate it. Hal added the township would appreciate any added tax revenue (1 ½%) for the upkeep of the township hall or the former Mantua Center school. Carol said that she had thought about this, but wonders how a village can remain rural.

Discussion then moved to how police vs sheriff and other services would be affected by such a change. Hal feels that since the township has a bigger population than the village, the village might be upset by such a change.

On the other hand, if they were combined and enjoyed being policed by the Mantua Police Department instead of the Portage County Sheriff, the response time would be improved. Carol agreed with this.

Hal said he thought Streetsboro and Aurora had done well to incorporate their townships and didn't know why Mantua had the two separate entities. Carol said she wasn't familiar with the history and why it was done. Hal didn't know either.

Helen and Carol discussed the Mantua Historical Society and the Restoration society, but their discussion isn't clear because of a discussion between Renee and Mayor Linda Clark about what Renee found in the binder regarding the terms of office.

Carol told of a webinar that she viewed about civic architectural styles that was very instructive. Helen added that she find the different styles and the variety of styles interesting. (This part isn't clear on the recording either.)

## Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Hal. Motion seconded by Renee. All ayes. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

**Minutes approved without amendment**

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Chair Pollard

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Secretary Henry

**Minutes approved as amended:**

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Chair Pollard

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Secretary Henry