

## Harrington Historic Preservation Commission

Minutes of August 22, 2020  
Harrington City Hall - 9-10 am

**Members:** Karen Allen, Aileen Sweet, Heather Slack, Nathan Luck, Leslie LePere, Dianne Sanchez, Geoffrey Talkington

### 1. The meeting was called to order at 9:07 AM

#### Attendance:

Commission members present: Karen Allen, Nathan Luck, Heather Slack, Geoffrey Talkington (virtual), Aileen Sweet

Visitors:

### 2. Reading/ Approval of minutes of 6/20/2020.

Heather moved that we approve the minutes with one correction to the next meeting date at the end, Aileen seconded, the motion passed.

### 3. Additions:

Karen requested that we discuss downtown economics. Aileen moved that we add it to the agenda, Heather seconded, the motion passed.

- a. **Downtown Economics:** The concern is that having vacant buildings in downtown Harrington is affecting the economics of the City of Harrington, adjacent businesses, current and potential tenants, and overall downtown revitalization efforts. The Preservation Leadership Forum notes that it creates problems for emergency responders, mortgage lenders, insurance agencies and reduces property tax revenues for municipalities. Karen emphasized that it is the responsibility of the property owners in the Central Business District to maintain their properties so they are safe, and occupiable.

### 4. Unfinished Business:

- a. **Memorial Hall Facade:** Since there are so many delays from Covid19, and more projects that need attention, it was decided that we remove the Memorial Hall project from the agenda, but add it to a list of projects for Harrington.
- b. **Design Review document (Certificate of Appropriateness or COA):** Karen has done some research on the use of this document, and it needs to be part of the Local Historic Register information and the eventual Local District. Karen provided a sample and will create a COA specific for Harrington to present at the next meeting in October. The question was brought up about what needs to be done to complete the district? Karen emailed Jim Kolva, who did the intensive survey and inventory for Harrington. He thinks it would be a great idea to do a local district as much of the work is done in that survey.
- c. **Historic District:** Covered in previous discussion, item b. Nathan provided a short update on the Harrington Town Square project.
- d. **Stone Pillars:** Moving the pillars was delayed this season and will be moved to the list of projects.
- e. **Ghost Signs:** Karen gave an update of what signs have been done. Heather added that Les has done a great job following through with this project. Les LePere sent a recording that was played with his thoughts for priorities in Harrington. His main concern is the north entrance to town. He would like to

address how this can be improved.

#### **5. New Business:**

- a. **North City Entrance Improvements:** Heather gave an update about the grassy area and sign on the north end of town. The Chamber and the Homemakers are getting the tree trimmed and a backing on the metal sign. The City has approved the work and there are funds needed but between the Chamber, Homemakers and Lions Club, most of the money has been raised. Cindy Haase is reaching out to other organizations to get the rest of the funding.
- b. **City Hall Upstairs:** Everyone would like to see it restored and re-used for office and meeting space. For all proposed projects, whether grants are sought or local fundraising, it was agreed that there needs to be a plan with cost breakdown for each one. Heather added that even the volunteer projects it would be great if there was a presentation about what would be done and have a plan. That way, people can help to get the project done. Geoffrey volunteered to head up a team to clean up the upper floor of the City Hall to at least get it more presentable for next steps.

#### **6. Other business:**

#### **7. Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 10:37 am - Next meeting is October 24, 2020 - 9-10am @ the Harrington City Hall.

2020 Calendar: Our meeting dates for 2020 are set as follows - January 18th, ([April 18th postponed to May 20](#)), June 20, August 22nd, and ([October 24th postponed to November 7, 2020](#)).