

TOWN OF PERRY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

TOWN OF PERRY, DANE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

RESPONSE TO APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

PHASE TWO OF HAUGE HISTORIC DISTRICT PARK

August 27, 2009

Application was submitted by the Town of Perry on July 23, 2009

The Town of Perry adopted its Historic Preservation Ordinance on June 12, 2001. Section 1.06 of this Ordinance covers the "Powers and Duties of the Historic Preservation Commission". Number 5 covers the duties of the Commission to "Advise owners of landmarks and historic structures on physical and financial aspects of preservation, renovation, rehabilitation and reuse". Number 6 covers the duties to "Review and make decisions on application for Certificates of Appropriateness and require the presentation of such plans, drawing, elevations and other information as may be necessary to make decisions".

Section 1.08 of the Ordinance covers the "Regulation of Construction, Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, Alteration and Demolition" of a historic site. Section Number 1 "Prohibition. Unless a Certificate of Appropriateness has been granted by the Commission, no owner or person legally in charge of a single historical property or property within a historic district shall: (a) Reconstruct, rehabilitate, alter or demolish all or any part of the exterior of such property or all or any part of the interior portions thereof, (b) Construct any improvement or visual impairment upon such designated property(ies); (c) Cause or permit any such work to be performed upon such property."

The Town of Perry has requested a Certificate of Appropriateness for proposed improvements and changes on town owned land located within the Hauge Historic District. These changes were outlined in the Application and Concept Map for Phase II.

This Commission states that only the items included specifically in this response shall be deemed reviewed and approved or disapproved. Furthermore, any future alterations, improvements, or changes will require additional applications.

FENCE ON SMITH PROPERTY BORDER

The Commission recognizes the existing precedents for erection of line fences and approves the four-strand non barb-wire fence being put up by the Town of Perry on the Fred and Mary Smith property line.

PARK FIELD ROAD/PARK DRIVEWAY

The Commission approves the Park Field Road/Park Driveway as it is a requirement of a legal action the town is involved in. The Commission, therefore, gives no opinion as to the appropriateness of said road/driveway, but recognizes the need as required by court direction and approves the construction as submitted.

FOUR STALL PARKING/TURN AROUND

The Commission cites the Historic Preservation Ordinance, Section 1.03 Definitions Number 8: Improvement – “Improvement” means any building, structure, object, site landscape, vegetation, work of art or other object constituting a physical betterment of real property, or any part of such betterment, including roads, bridges, fences, retaining walls, monuments, lighting fixtures, signs and the like”.

The Commission further cites the Historic Preservation Ordinance, Section 1.08, Number 2), (b) Criteria, Number 1: “The appropriateness to the historic property or historic district of the proposed alteration or demolition”.

The Commission has denied the construction of the four stall parking lot/turn around area as it detracts from the integrity of the historic district. Furthermore, one of the main objectives of the Preservation Plan was to preserve and protect the views and vistas from the Hauge Church.

SMALL CANOPY OF TREES

As the Commission has denied the construction of the parking/turn around area, the planting of the trees to hide the parking/turn around area was removed from the application.

CHANGING THE VEGETATION TO PRAIRIE

The Historic Preservation Plan adopted by the Perry Town Board on December 11, 2001 states under “Restrictions: Number 3: “No planting of any type shall impair the day or night views and vistas from the

Hauge Log Church Historic Site including but not limited to trees, bushes, shrubs, crops etc. No such plantings shall impair the view of the Historic Site from state and local roadways."

Recognizing the precedent set in Phase I, the Commission approves the change of vegetation to a prairie restoration subject to the following restriction: The installation and maintenance of the prairie be done through the use of mowing and chemical applications only.

HIKING TRAILS

Recognizing the precedent in Phase I, the Commission approves the construction and maintenance of the described trails as shown on the Park Concept Plan.

SKIING TRAILS

Recognizing the precedent in Phase I, the Commission approves cross-country skiing on the approved trails.

SIGNAGE

The town board adopted the Historic Preservation Plan for the Historic District on December 11, 2001. Restrictions, Item number 7 states "No structure, planting, use or activity within the Historic District shall be incompatible with or distract from the historic nature and character of the Historic District, the Hauge Log Church Historic Site, its setting and environs including but not limited to signage, billboards, debris, waste, trash, junk, scrap, stored objects, disposed material, etc."

The Commission denies the signage requested in the Application, as the proposed signs are deemed incompatible with and distracting from the historic nature and character of the Historic District. The Commission states the signage also detracts from the integrity of the Historic Site. Furthermore, the existing precedent for disallowing signage is upheld by the appeal of the Perry Town Board by the Perry Town Board dated May 9, 2006

The Commission would gladly work with the Town Board to find solutions (such as possible relocation) regarding the signage.

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SUMMARY

The Commission is well aware of the fact that the town board has approved the development of a park on town property located within the historic district. The Commission recognizes the time and effort that has been spent by residents into developing this park. That effort should not diminish the considerable time and effort invested by the residents and town board members in establishing the Historic District during 2001.

The Commission further recognizes the effort put forth into obtaining various grants to be used toward the purchase of and improvements to property within the Historic District. The Commission appreciates the fact that these grants and other funding sources reduce the burden on taxpayers. However, financial gains to the town should not override the Historic Preservation's Plan covering the District.

The difficulty of historic preservation is not identifying the various sites, but preserving them, which is our mission. The preservation of the Hauge Historic District can be achieved by the Commission, the Perry Parks and Open Space Committee and the Perry Town Board respecting the Town of Perry Historic Preservation Ordinance and the approved Hauge Historic Preservation Plan.

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS IS APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH.

August 27, 2009

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Darren Walker, Chairman