

TOWN OF PERRY, DANE COUNTY, WISCONSIN
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES for Remote Meeting held March 23, 2021

1. Chair Doug Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.
2. Commissioners in attendance were: Brad Grundahl, Renaye Leach, Don Mueller, and Doug Nelson. Gary Boley was absent.
3. Other attendees were: Doug King, Perry Parks & Open Space Committee Chair & Mick Klein Kennedy.
4. Brad moved and Don seconded to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2020 meeting. Motion carried. Approved minutes will be sent to the Town Clerk.
5. The Commission then turned to reviewing the Town of Perry's Request (submitted by the Town of Perry Board of Supervisors February 9, 2021) for Reconsideration of the Hauge Historic District Park Certificate of Appropriateness application – signed June 9, 2020. The application covered the 4 items which the Commission reviewed and discussed:
 - 1) Construction of permanent restroom in Hauge Historic District Park OR
 - 2) Placement of portable restroom in Hauge Historic District Park;
 - 3) Construction of handicapped access pathway to restroom;
 - 4) Placement of handicapped parking sign in parking area.

The chair commenced by inviting an overview discussion of the application.

The chair noted that the commission has a duty to disapprove the introduction of any proposed element or structure that would not be compatible, consistent and harmonious in appearance with the existing elements/structures at the site. He indicated that the town's prior application for a restroom had not been specific or clear enough with respect to the shape, size and materials for the proposed new structure to allow him to vote for approval of the town's previous application. Speaking for himself, the chair concluded that the town's new application showing the proposed structure would be imitative in size, shape and materials to the existing church outhouse provided the previously missing clarity.

Another commissioner expressed caution and asserted an obligation to ensure that the qualities stated in the Historic Preservation Plan "Significance" section pertaining to "undisturbed setting...serene environment invites contemplation and reflection in its simplicity...surrounding lands being kept open and free from development." are preserved and do not get inadvertently changed in the process of protection of the historic site with the surrounding park and enthusiasm for usage. The commissioner postulated that the proposed restroom structure might not comply with the Historic Preservation Plan "Restrictions" #6, # 7, and #8. Questions about long stay visitation and events were also voiced.

Another commissioner stated that the Historic Park, as a park, needed and should have a restroom.

Another commissioner had seen the need for a more comprehensive restroom plan, and believed it had now been provided in the reconsideration request.

After further discussion with input from the applicants, Brad moved to approve the restroom facility to be located in the park, with the additional advisory recommendation that it be permanent instead of portable.

Don seconded. The motion carried 3-1, with Doug, Brad, and Don voting aye and Renaye voting nay. The application for a certificate of appropriateness was approved.

Further comments by the chair included:

He reinforced the recommendation that the restroom be built as a permanent structure.

He expressed deep admiration for the work involved in the improvements done over the years in the park, but added that the minimalist view of park development was also a perspective that he respected. He noted that original impetus for the historic district had been a defensive response to unwanted and harmful development adjacent to the historic church, and not primarily a desire to create an improved public use park. He concluded that there have been differing and legitimate opinions about the appropriate "character" of the historic park.

After further discussion, Brad moved approval of the handicapped access pathway to the restroom and placement of handicapped parking sign in parking area.

Don seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Further comments from the applicants indicated that no further alterations or improvements to the park were currently anticipated.

7. The commission chose not to schedule a next meeting time, deciding instead to wait for an issue to be brought to it before setting a specific date for its next convening.

8. There being no further business, Doug moved to adjourn. Brad seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.

This was a remote meeting held by video and telephone conference in compliance with the Wisconsin Department of Justice's (DOJ) Office of Open Government Advisory: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and Open Meetings.

Commissioner Brad Grundahl hosted the meeting through Zoom. The public could access the remote meeting through the instructions below:

Sign on time between 6:45 and 7:00 pm. Meeting ID is 346 456 4634. Password is: Historic The phone number for phone only without video is 312-626-6799. Anyone have trouble signing on can call Brad at 608-225-4776.

Respectfully drafted by Renaye Leach, Commission Secretary
Respectfully submitted by Doug Nelson, Chair, Perry Historic Commission