



City of La Porte Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 5:30 PM
City Hall, Council Chambers, 801 Michigan Avenue

A meeting of the City of La Porte Historic Preservation Commission ("Commission") was held at City Hall Council Chambers, 801 Michigan Avenue, La Porte, IN, 46350 on Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 5:30 P.M. ("Local Time"), pursuant to notice duly given in accordance with the rules of the Commission and the Indiana Open Door Law.

This meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Sallie LaRocco, Chair.

Bruce Johnson led the pledge of allegiance along with board members in attendance.

On call of the roll, the members of the Commission were shown to be present or absent as follows:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sallie LaRocco, Fonda Owens, Peter Steele, and Jeanne Rafaj.

MEMBERS ABSENT: April Hacker, Lexi Blozis, and Bruce Johnson (Advisory Member).

GUESTS PRESENT: David Heinold, Deb Parcell, and Councilman Drew Buchanan.

MINUTES: A motion was made by Fonda Owens to approve the September 17, 2024 meeting minutes and the motion was seconded by Jeanne Rafaj. The motion passed 4-0.

CORRESPONDENCE REPORTS (CLAIMS, COAs, Demolition Reports):

a. 612 D Street – New wood stairs at the front porch (**HPC Review**)
Deb explained the staff report for the new wood stairs at the front porch and provided the staff recommendations for painting the wood rather than staining. Deb mentioned that she asked Lexi if the lights would be included and Lexi confirmed that the railings on the stairs will not include the lights as shown in the picture. Fonda asked if the porch is painted and Sallie explained that the porch was already painted as part of a previous staff approved COA. Fonda asked what type of paint will be used for the wood. Deb explained that she advised Lexi talk with Sherwin Williams paint store about paint selection and mentioned that the Guidelines have a primer on painting wood features. The board discussed the request for new wood stairs on the front porch. Jeanne Rafaj asked for the motion to include a final design to be reviewed by staff prior to the installation of the new stairs. Peter Steele made a motion to **approve 2024-COA-13 to install new wood stairs at the front porch with conditions recommended in the staff report subject to staff review and approval of the final design plan** and the motion was seconded by Jeanne Rafaj. The motion passed 4-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Preserving Historic Places Conference recap – Sallie mentioned that Bruce, Deb, and herself attended the Preserving Historic Places Conference in Madison, Indiana. She mentioned that she learned a lot and inspired by what other communities are doing in the historic preservation realm. She mentioned that Bruce was really excited and sees a lot of opportunity and parallels for La Porte. Deb mentioned that she attended sessions on defensible decisions, enforcement/violations, and preservation planning. Deb will present an education powerpoint with information for board members as part of the Indiana Landmarks contract for professional services.
- B. Hazardous Materials Workshop – Deb mentioned that the workshop is set to take place this Saturday, November 23 at the Exchange Building in La Porte from 10 am to Noon.

NEW BUSINESS: None.


HEARING OF VISITORS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Peter reminded everyone that the Candlelight Tour that Preserve Historic La Porte organizes will take place on December 7 and 8. Peter also mentioned can test materials for hazardous/non-hazardous if they take a sample to the County for testing.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Jeanne Rafaj to adjourn and the motion was seconded by Peter Steele. The meeting adjourned at 5:51 PM.



Historic Preservation Commission Chair



Attest