

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
ALTON HISTORIC COMMISSION  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2015, 7:00pm

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Doug Bader, Mary Anderson, Monica Mason, Diane Plummer, Matt Asselmeier

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jonas Janek

**OTHERS:** Matt Bivens, Terry Sharp

Review of the minutes for the Historic Commission meeting November 17th and Sub Committee meeting on Dec. 9th. Minutes were approved on a motion made by Mary Anderson, and seconded by Monica Mason.

**MIDDLETOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT INVENTORY PROJECT UPDATE:**

Matt Bivens presented an update regarding the progress of the Middletown historic architectural survey. Mr. Bivens informed the Commission that his work is roughly 2/3 completed and he anticipates a completion date in January of 2016. Although the requirements from IHPA regarding the architectural survey are modestly fundamental, Mr. Bivens will provide some additional survey information to fully inform both the Commission and the interested citizens of Alton. This additional information will be in anticipation of a public presentation/meeting to be held in 2016, hosted by the City of Alton, featuring a presentation of the survey findings by Mr. Bivens. The Historic Commission is optimistic that informing the general public as to the advantages of being included within an historic district, will assuage some of the misconceptions regarding the loss of individual rights as to property renovations. The Commission and Mr. Bivens discussed briefly the importance of the use of language within the promotion of this public meeting. An open, informative, and positive use of the lexicon was discussed as a promotional priority. Fueled by the optimistic nature of the discussion regarding this public meeting, Matt Asselmeier proposed setting a date for this event to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Historic Commission in January of 2016. All commissioners were in agreement.

Mr. Bivens and the commissioners also discussed the seemingly arbitrary nature of the boundaries of the Middletown Historic District. Upon completion of his survey work, Mr. Bivens will make some recommendations as to potential expansion of the existing boundaries.

**DEMOLITIONS:**

1) 615 East 5th Street. IHPA review stated no adverse effect from the demolition of this property. Added to this, was the structural compromise of the foundation of the house mentioned by Matt Asselmeier. Despite the regret as to the undeniable charm of this property, a move was made to approve the demolition by Monica Mason, and seconded by Mary Anderson. Motion was approved.

2) 205 West 7th Street. IHPA again had no objection to this demolition, stating no adverse effect from this structure's demise. Matt Asselmeier also indicated major structural loss within the roof of the building. A move was made to approve the demolition by Mary Anderson, and seconded by Diane Plummer. Motion was approved.

3) 519 Easton Street. IHPA had no objection regarding the demolition, citing no adverse effects from the loss of this property. Matt Asselmeier mentioned that asbestos abatement was taking place in anticipation of the demolition of this property as a public safety measure. A move was made by Diane Plummer to approve the demolition, and seconded by Monica Mason. Motion was approved.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Mason  
Alton Historic Commission