

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
ALTON HISTORIC COMMISSION  
Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 8:00 am**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jonas Janek and Monica Mason

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Paul Krueger for 628 Henry St., Sam Shaw, Code Inspector for Building & Zoning and Debbie Beck, Secretary

The meeting of the Alton Historic Commission was called to order by Doug Bader at 8:05 am on March 1, 2016.

The minutes for January 19, 2016 were not available to be reviewed; these are to be reviewed at the next meeting.

**APPLICATIONS:**

Paul Krueger for **628 Henry** then took the floor. Krueger had made a petition to the commission to reconsider their decision from January 19<sup>th</sup>, reference the shake siding around the dormers at 628 Henry. Krueger provided pictures of different residences in the historic district, with different styles of shake siding. Doug Bader stated that, just because a homeowner had placed shake siding on his home 50 years ago, doesn't mean it fit the architectural style of the home. The commissioners discussed the pictures of the homes versus the type of shake siding that Krueger had presented for 628 Henry. A motion was made by Mary Anderson to reconsider the motion made at the January 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Diane Plummer seconded the motion. The motion failed unanimously.

**MIDDLETOWN REMAPPING AGENDA:**

Matt Asselmeier stated that he had received an e-mail from Matt Bivens. Asselmeier stated that Bivens wrote that there really was no specific agenda structure or formal write up prepared just yet. He wrote that if the commission has any prior or new business, that the commission take care other business first and then he would do a slide show of the project, provide a brief discussion of the district and then the national register, and then a question session from the public. After some discussion by the commissioners, it was decided that Bader would provide some type of introductory remarks and then introduce Bivens, who would give his speech. A question and answer segment would then follow with an approval of the next steps, Bader stated that, during this time, he would ask Bivens opinion on the correct use of Historic Tax Credit for Haskell House; that would still keep the property as a historical use.

Bader stated that Bivens had stated that he would like homeowners to bring pictures of their homes. This information came after the public notices had already been published. Bader stated that he would talk with Terry Sharp of the Landmarks Assoc. and Kayla of the Friends of Haskell and ask if they would send out notices to their subscribers.

**HASKELL HOUSE:**

Bader stated that he attended a meeting on February 29, 2016, at the Haskell house. He explained that, when Mrs. Haskell bequeathed the house to the city, she set severe limitations to the use of the property to be used as either a park or for education. He stated that one way the city would be able to

have the use of the building changed would be if Mrs. Haskell's heirs would consider all uses of the building and change the limitations. Some of the uses for the building discussed were condos, a single family residence, and a B&B. He stated that Haskell House is a potential project that could use Historic Tax Credits. The city would have to rezone the property for certain uses. Bader stated that, ultimately, it would take citizens coming before the city with ideas to put forward to the family.

A question was raised on whether the city has finished replacing all of the windows of Haskell House. Asselmeier stated that all Energy Efficient Grants are currently frozen as the state level until a budget is passed. He stated that Dan Beiser has spoken at a Rotary Meeting recently and that they are considering a two year budget. Asselmeier stated that at some point there should be a state budget and the funds would be unfrozen. He stated that there were also ADA issues that needed to be looked at. Also, depending on the decision, how much parking would be needed for the new use would determine how much property would need to be sold.

Bader stated that he would like to have Mike Haynes, of the Park Department for the City of Alton, come before the Historic Commission and make a presentation of what he brought up at the meeting, along with the comments and suggestions of how to use the property. Bader asked Asselmeier to contact Haynes to see if he would be available to attend the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**829 E 4<sup>TH</sup> ST (KOENIG HOUSE):**

Sam Shaw stated a letter, which had been written by George Carter, was a good start to what needed to be done to the building. He stated that the building is structurally sound, but the roof on the west side of the building needs to be repaired as soon as possible. He stated that the leak should not cause any structural problems, but it would do a lot of water damage to the inside if not taken care of. Bader stated that a follow up meeting with the mayor needed to be proposed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Asselmeier stated that on March the 15<sup>th</sup> the Planning Commission would be meeting reference the old Lighthouse. He stated that a recording company, Lighthouse Sound, would like to house their business there.

A question was brought up concerning the old train station. What would be the time constraints of possibly getting the building moved. Asselmeier stated that he thought after the new high speed rail is finished the old station should be moved within one year. It was also brought up that maybe a public hearing with Greg Caffey, Director of Development & Housing, providing a presentation about this issue to get the word out that if the train station was not moved it would be demolished. Another idea for the presentation would be to contact a moving contractor who moves large structures, to inquire the cost to move the old train station.

There being no further discussion or comments from the public, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 am

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie J. Beck  
Secretary