

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
ALTON HISTORIC COMMISSION  
Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at 8:00 am**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jonas Janek and Diane Plummer

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Hugh Halter, 322 Langdon, Joshua Young, 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 8:00 am on April 5, 2016.

Monica Mason moved to accept the minutes as presented for March 1, 2016. Mary Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Monica Mason moved to accept the minutes as presented for March 8, 2016 for the Public Hearing. Mary Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Matt Asselmeier moved to accept the minutes as presented for March 17, 2016 Sub-Committee. Monica Mason seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The minutes for January 19, 2016 were not available to be reviewed; these are to be reviewed at a later date.

**APPLICATIONS:**

The commission took up the two applications for **322 Langdon**, Hugh Halter then took the floor. He stated the first application was for an in-ground pool on the lower part of their property. This pool would be in the western corner of the lower section of their property. Halter then stated that the second application was for a fence around this area. A 5 ft. black wrought iron fence, along the same lines of the fence at the top of the property, but without the looped tops, would be along the east and south side of the property and a solid cedar, dog eared top, along the west side of the privacy, to create privacy.

Mary Anderson made a motion to accept the applications as presented. Monica Mason seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**CREATION OF A NEW HISTORIC DISTRICT:**

Joshua Young, Democratic Precinct Committeeman for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Precinct then took the floor. Young stated that he was recording this meeting for placement on the social media for his constituents and asked that the commissioners introduce themselves. Young asked if the city distributed its resources at equal demographics of the city. Young showed a city map to the commissioners, which had the historic district highlighted. He stated that the district went around the 22<sup>nd</sup> Precinct, which was unfair as the majority of the 22<sup>nd</sup> precinct are homes which have minority residents. Doug Bader responded that this is a huge topic. Bader explained that there are two different ways to create a historic district, one would

be through the National Registry and the other would be a City Historic District. He stated that to be in the National Registry 50% of the property owners have to agree. He stated that possibly, in the 1970's, when the historic district was established, if a home owner did not want to be in the district, the boundaries reflected that opinion. He stated that he did not know for sure, because neither he, nor any of the other current commissioners, were on the commission at that time. For the City Historic District an Application For Landmark Or Historic District Designation form would need to be submitted. Bader stated that even though the City of Alton was home ruled, the city has no ability to change the rules for the National Registry. Bader also explained that at this time Matt Bivens was doing a re-inventory of the historic districts, not an expansion, but Bivens has agreed to provide areas that could be expanded as part of the district. Young stated he did not want this district to be added to the current historic district, he wanted this to be a separate historic district. Young asked Monica Mason if she would be the liaison between himself and the commission. Mason stated that she would be happy to work with anyone willing to expand the district.

Dawn Voss, a homeowner in the 22<sup>nd</sup> precinct, then asked to speak with the commission. Voss stated that she works for the city and that was the only way she had heard about this request for an expansion to the historic district. Voss stated that her house was old enough to be in the historic district, but she did not want to be bound to the historic commission's rules and regulations and did not want her house to be placed in the district. The commission thanked her for coming to the meeting.

Bader then explained to Young the process for expanding the historic district. He stated that there was a form that there was to be filled and submitted to the commission. He stated the commission would then schedule a public hearing with a public notice. If the expansion is denied by the commission there would be an appeal process through the city council.

Young stated that he believed that the conditions and guidelines are outdated.

#### **HASKELL HOUSE:**

Michael Haynes, Director for the Park & Rec Department then spoke about the proposal for Haskell House. Haynes stated that in 2009 the Park Department moved out of Haskell House to the Public Works Building. Since that time the building is only used occasionally for meetings. The city is currently spending approximately \$8,000 a year for utilities, keeping the building at 55 degrees, to keep the pipes from bursting. The building is deteriorating, because the city is unable to make the repairs, due to the cost of the repairs. The roof alone, which needs to be replaced, would cost anywhere from \$80,000 - \$100,000. This past February the city held a public meeting to inform city residents that the city is wanting to put Haskell House up for sale. This sale would just be for the house, not the playhouse nor the playground. Currently the house can only be used as a park or educational facility as stipulated by Florence Haskell's will, but Carolyn Dooley has spoken with a relative and he will be happy to sign off on the change for the stipulation to be lifted. Haynes stated that he is waiting for an appraisal to be done to place the house for sale. He asked if the commissioners knew of a website for properties that are of an historical significance. Mary Anderson stated that the website he is asking about is the National Trust Real Estate section.

**CLG:**

A copy of the CLG report was given to each commissioner and they were asked for any corrections or additions to be forwarded to Matt Asselmeier.

**MIDDLETOWN REMAPPING PUBLIC HEARING FOLLOW-UP**

It was discussed that Matt Bivens would have another public hearing closer to the end of the year. Nothing further to be discussed at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

No new business.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

Andrew Lucker, 618 Langdon, stated he was there for his application to erect a shed on his property. Debbie Beck stated that she had not received an application to forward to the commission. Lucker stated that he had given his application to Sam Shaw. It should be noted that Shaw had left the meeting at 8:39. Doug Bader and the other commissioners talked and explained to Lucker that they did not have to rule on a shed and that as long as the application had been approved by the Building & Zoning Department as far as the commission was concerned he could get his permit.

There being no further discussion or comments from the public, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 am

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie J. Beck  
Secretary