

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
ST. ALBANS CITY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
6:00 PM TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2022
ST. ALBANS CITY HALL, 100 NORTH MAIN STREET

Approved January 10, 2023

Commission Members Present: Laz Scangas, Chair; Richard Stahl; Barbara Weinstein; Joe Luneau; Lisa Evans (via Zoom); KarenMarie Peltier (via Zoom); LisaMarie Charlesworth (via Zoom).

City Staff Present: Chip Sawyer, Director of Planning & Development; Angela Bernard, Minute Taker.

Members of the Public Present: Liam McKone, Fenian Historical Society & Civil War historian.

1. Begin Recording and Open Meeting – **L. Scangas called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.**

- a. Introduction of attendees – introductions were made.
- b. Public Comment on issues not on agenda – none.
- c. Discuss additions or deletions to agenda – L. Scangas moved item 3 from the agenda (historical markers) up in the agenda to item 2.

2. Discuss ideas for CLG grant funding.

L. Scangas introduced the subject and explained the background of proposed projects for a possible CLG grant application.

a. Old Home Award.

B. Weinstein presented information on a proposed Old Home Award that she would like the HPC to initiate in St. Albans. She explained that she thinks St. Albans could base this program on a similar one that the Rockingham Historic Preservation Commission has created. She explained that the town of Rockingham told her it cost \$450 this year. She further explained that this is a popular type of program in other towns that participate, such as Bellows Falls. B. Weinstein then went into detail on some of the buildings and homes that have been awarded in other communities and explained what makes those buildings special and award worthy.

R. Stahl said St. Albans used to hand out brass plaques for historical homes. L. Scangas said those weren't awards, just handed out with the original owner's name. B. Weinstein said the plaques used as awards for this program could have the owner's name, the date it was built, and the date the award was given out.

C. Sawyer said the project seems easy enough to do without applying for a grant and that it could even be done with the planning budget. L. Charlesworth asked about criteria for winning properties. L. Scangas and J. Luneau said they would have to sit

down as a group and create a list of criteria. Homeowners who are eligible and chosen can decide whether or not they want the plaque.

C. Sawyer said the HPC could present a proposal to City Council and that he thinks the city will like the idea.

L. Scangas said he will forward additional information to the HPC and the full idea could be fleshed out at a later meeting.

b. New historic district survey.

L. Scangas presented the idea of using a proposed new historic district for the grant. He explained that some of the research and legwork involved in creating a St. Albans French Canadian District has already been done. L. Scangas explained that Louise Haynes, a former foreign language teacher at BFA St. Albans, has researched and presented on the French Canadian District and would be willing to come in and talk to the HPC about the idea. He explained that he likes the idea of highlighting this section of the Lake Street area.

L. Scangas then discussed making a new Historic District in the north Main Street section of town. He explained that this area of the city is well preserved.

J. Luneau said there may be sections of the proposed French Canadian District that shouldn't be included. L. Scangas said they would have to put some work in to finalize which streets and sections should be included.

R. Stahl made a motion to proceed with a plan to create a new French Canadian District in St. Albans. Second by J. Luneau. Voted with all in favor; motion passed at 6:34 PM.

The Commission decided not to apply for the CLG grant this year, as the Old Home Award program would not require grant funding and the creation of the new district requires preparatory work and further research.

c. Other ideas.

B. Weinstein said she has been bringing new neighbors a welcoming packet describing the history of Bank Street and a description of their home from the 1980 survey. She asked if the HPC could do an updated survey of properties. C. Sawyer said that would be a project for a later date and that right now the focus should remain on the Old Home Award and Historical District.

3. Discuss potential new historic markers.

This item was discussed further up in the agenda as part of section 2.

L. McKone presented a summary of his proposed historical markers program. He has proposed two new markers for the city, one in Taylor Park and one marking the historic foundry property of General Stannard. L. McKone gave a history of General Stannard and his background living in

St. Albans and explained that he doesn't believe there is a marker highlighting the General in the city.

L. Scangas asked clarifying questions regarding the proposed project and whether L. McKone would do the work associated with obtaining a roadside marker. L. McKone said yes, he plans on doing the paperwork and forms associated with the project.

J. Luneau explained that General Stannard has recently been honored with other placards around the state, with several placed around the state in recent years. He explained that there may be a little pushback from the State board because of the recent projects honoring Stannard in other communities. L. McKone said he is aware of other plaques honoring Stannard in other communities but that there isn't one in St. Albans marking his connection to the area.

C. Sawyer said he doesn't see placing a plaque in Taylor Park presenting as an issue or problem for the City Council, so long as the HPC approves it. He suggested there may be a need to communicate with the Parks Commission in order to get an idea for appropriate placement of the marker.

L. Charlesworth made a motion to support the concept of adding historical signage in downtown St. Albans, and to allow L. McKone to do further research and contact the State board for next steps and cost. Second by R. Stahl. Voted with all in favor; motion passed at 6:12 PM.

4. Approval of Minutes

J. Luneau made a motion to approve the minutes of September 6, 2022, as presented. Second by R. Stahl. Approved with all in favor. Minutes approved at 6:40 PM.

5. Other business - none

6. Review next meeting date/time.

There was discussion regarding whether to switch up the planned meeting schedule. The next meeting is planned for December 6, 2022 at 6:00 PM. **The meeting after that, in March 2023, will be moved away from Town Meeting Day from 3/7/23 to 3/14/23.**

The rest of the planned meetings for 2023 will be June 6 and September 5.

7. Adjourn.

L. Scangas adjourned the meeting at 6:40 PM.