

City of Bainbridge Island
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
June 7, 2018

IN ATTENDANCE:

HPC Members:

David Williams, William Shopes, Francis Jacobson, Sandra Burke, Marcia Montgomery, Adrienne Wolf, Carol Oas

HPC Non-Member Advisors:

Olivia Sontag (City Planner); Sarah Blossom (City Council Liaison) Rick Chandler (Curator, BIHM)

CALL TO ORDER / APPROVALS / CONFLICTS

- Mr. Williams called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm
 - There were no conflicts of interests
 - The Minutes for May 2018 were approved with amendments:
 - Amend that 750 Madison Ave was voted as “Register Eligible”
 - There were no conflicts of interest

DAHP GRANT REQUESTS - UPDATE

- DAHP Grant Request for \$12,000 for further study of Register Eligible Structures
 - There will be a teleconference on Tuesday June 12th at 12:30 pm with Mr. Williams and Ms. Sontag conferring with a member of the DAHP
 - There is more money available for historic preservation than in recent years but federal budget and administrative changes have made it harder to access those funds.
- DAHP Grant Request of approximately \$1000 to restore Island Center Cemetery
 - The funds would be used for dead tree removal and clearing
 - The access road would be improved, and a kiosk built as a guide for visitors
 - Future maintenance and upkeep would be done by volunteers

HERITAGE FARMS

- What qualifies as a Heritage Farm
 - The property must be greater than 2.5 acres
 - The farm had to be established prior to 1965
 - At least 25% the land must currently be used for agriculture purposes
 - It does not have to be a commercial enterprise
 - This is an honorary designation and does not need to be voted on by the City Council
 - The Municipal Code (18.24.140) refers to these as “Historic” farms rather than “Heritage” farms, and there was a suggestion of changing the wording in the Code
- Sign Design and Specifications
 - The sign size would be approximately 11” by 17” (equivalent to two sheets of paper side by side)
 - The sign would say “Bainbridge Island Heritage Farm” along with the name of the farm
 - The date of the farm would not be on the sign as this would be difficult to clarify

- The name would either be the current name, or the historic name based on the preference of the farm owner.
- As for design, Ms. Burke showed the Suyematsu farm sign with its field and tractor emblem. The designer was Moira McDonald, and she might be employed for the Heritage Farm signs
- Mr. Williams has a list of potential historic farms, and he will send out letters to each property owner
- He also believed that a notice and / or a story in the local newspaper would be helpful.

SPRING HISTORIC REGISTER WORKSHOP AND “PLAQUE PARTY”

- Confirmed Attendees
 - There will be representatives / owners from each of twenty-two (22) Historic Register Properties
 - Approximately five or six “Register Eligible” property owners have confirmed they will be in attendance
- Program
 - Photos of each of the Historic Register properties will be displayed
 - Ms. Burke and Ms. Wolf will announce the name or names of each owner or representative for a property in order of entry
 - As each representative comes up, he or she will receive the plaque
 - The Register Eligible property owners will be presented information on the benefits of placing one’s property on the Historic Registry by Mr. Williams.
 - Ms. Montgomery will give all attendees an education in how to research historical information on his or her individual property via a PowerPoint presentation containing maps and various other tools.
 - There will be flyers detailing the evening’s events along with self-serve coffee
 - Ms. Wolf gave a special thanks to Ms. Sontag for her work in organizing this event.

OTHER MATTERS AND LOOKING AHEAD

- Ms. Wolfe had coffee with Brianna Kosowitz, the Bainbridge Island History Museum’s new Executive Director
 - Discussed how social media can be used for visibility and to how to partner with monetary resources
 - The Commission itself cannot legal raise or manage funds because it is a citizen advisory commission and not a non-profit
 - The Museum’s Facebook page could have a slideshow of homes and structures on the Historic Register
 - Ms. Burke stated that one problem was that some people do confuse the Historic Preservation Commission and the Historic Museum
- How can the Commission increase public awareness of its mission?
 - Mr. Williams suggested that the Museum has a partnership with the Bainbridge Public Library which allows the Museum to put on public presentations, one member from the HPC could host a presentation.
 - One topic that could achieve high turnout would be on how to research your historic property, the same presentation being done at the Plaque Party
- Looking ahead to the Future
 - Mr. Williams and Mr. Shopes will be retiring from the Commission on June 30th.
 - He stated some priorities he hopes the Commission will continue to work on

- More Register Eligible properties
- Heritage Farms
- A database of Register Eligible homes on the City's website
- Educating real estate agents on historic preservation and Register Eligible homes
 - Mr. Shopes added that insurance agents and underwriters would also need to be educated because insurance companies often decline to insure historic properties due to increased replacement costs.
- Heritage Properties
- Public Outreach and Education

➤ The Meeting Adjourned at 3:08 pm