



HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025 - 6:30 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
110 N. POPLAR STREET, WEST BRANCH, IOWA
Council Quorum May Be Present

<https://zoom.us/j/5814699699> or
dial in phone number 1-312-626-6799 with Meeting ID 581 469 9699

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approve Consent Agenda/Move to action.
 - a. Approve minutes from the October 16, 2024 meeting.
4. Non-Consent Agenda. /Move to action.
 - a. Nominate _____ for Chairperson for the Historic Preservation Commission for 2025. /Move to action.
 - b. Nominate _____ for Vice Chairperson for the Historic Preservation Commission for 2025. / Move to action.
 - c. Nominate _____ for Secretary for the Historic Preservation Commission for 2025. / Move to action.
 - d. Interim Development Ordinance update
 - e. Traveler's Rest update
 - f. West Branch's 175th anniversary ideas
5. Comments from Commission Members
6. Adjourn

West Branch Historic Preservation Commission Meeting

Wednesday, October 16, 2024 @ 6:30 pm

City Council Chambers

Present: Dana Gafeller, Liz Seiberling, Peggy Herman, Lou Picek, John Fuller, Karen Suchomel.
Adam Kofoed, City Administrator, also, in attendance.

Minutes: Moved by Lou, seconded by Liz, to approve the August 20, 2024 minutes. All I's. Motion carried.

Discussion topics:

a) Interim Development Ordinance update:

Using a copy of the current ordinance, tweaking is currently being done to be able to present a new ordinance to the public. The new language will preserve the small town feel of West Branch. It needs to be refined and made better by preserving and protecting the businesses of West Branch. It will negatively impact someone and we need to be ready for this. The ordinance has the full support of the city council and Main Street-West Branch. The goal is 8 weeks before it can be presented to the public.

b) Certified Local Government update:

Adam is still tweaking the application, to be ready January 2025.

c) Traveler's Rest Nomination update:

The National Park Service needs to write up a national historic nomination. Dana will contact NPS and check on the progress.

d) Traveler's Rest Renovation update:

Update through ECIA interior renovations need to be done, the historic nomination needs to get done. Additional funds need to be found. The renovation needs to be appropriate for economic development with changes to priorities and significance.

January 2025 will be the meeting of the commission.

Adjourn: Moved by Lou, 2nd by John to adjourn meeting. All I's. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Suchomel



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

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| MEETING DATE: January 15, 2025 |
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| AGENDA ITEM: West Branch’s 175th anniversary ideas |
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| PREPARED BY: City Administrator, Adam Kofoed |
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| DATE: January 8, 2025 |
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BACKGROUND:

To gather ideas and develop initial plans for celebrating the 175th anniversary of West Branch in 2027. This milestone presents an opportunity to honor our rich history, engage the community, and promote the city’s unique character.

HOMEWORK:

To make the session productive, please come prepared with:

1. Ideas or examples from other city celebrations.
2. Historical resources or archives that could inspire themes or events.
3. A list of potential collaborators or contributors.

SAMPLE IDEAS:

- **Storytelling Nights:** Invite long-time residents to share personal stories and oral histories.
- **Mural or Public Art:** Commission a mural or sculpture depicting West Branch’s founding and growth.
- **175th Anniversary Publication:** Publish a commemorative book or booklet documenting West Branch’s history.
- **Speaker Series:** Host lectures or panels on local history, preservation, and the city's future.
- **Historic Home Open House:** Partner with homeowners to allow public visits to historic homes.
- **175th Anniversary Logo:** Create a logo for use on banners, merchandise, and promotional materials.
- **Social Media Campaign:** Share “175 days of history” leading up to the event, featuring daily posts on key moments.