

West Branch Historic Preservation Commission

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

City Council Chambers, 110 North Poplar Street

Commission Members Present: Peggy Hermann, John Fuller, Lou Picek, Dana Gaffeler, Liz Seiberling

City Staff Present: Adam Kofoed, City Administrator

Public Present: None.

1. Call to Order.
2. Roll Call.
3. Approve Consent Agenda:
 - a. Approve minutes from the January 15, 2025 meeting.
 - i. Moved by: Lou Picek
 - ii. Seconded by: Peggy Hermann
 - iii. All ayes. The motion carries
 - b. Approve minutes from the April 16, 2025 meeting.
 - i. Moved by: Lou Picek
 - ii. Seconded by: Peggy Hermann
 - iii. All ayes. The motion carries
4. Non-Consent Agenda:
 - a. Review and approve a sign permit for The Black Rose, 116 W. Main Street
 - i. No objections.
 - ii. Moved by: John Fuller
 - iii. Seconded by: Liz Seiberling
 - iv. All ayes. The motion carries
 - b. Review and approve an awning design permit from John Dick, 105 W. Main Street
 - i. No objections.
 - ii. Moved by: Lou Picek
 - iii. Seconded by: John Fuller
 - iv. All ayes. The motion carries
 - c. Review and approve a sign permit for Izzy's Treasures, 105 S. Downey Street
 - i. No objections.
 - ii. Moved by: Lou Picek
 - iii. Seconded by: Dana Gaffeler
 - iv. All ayes. The motion carries
5. Comments from Commission Members
 - a. Lou reached out to the Barber Shop to let him know about the signage application requirements should they want to have signage installed.
 - b. Dana followed up on creating a 501c3 for Traveller's Rest funding and determined it would be relatively easy.
 - i. It would be called "Friends of Historic Preservation.
 - ii. This is currently in Adam's hands for next steps. He will schedule this for closer to the fiscal year end to capitalize on funds allocated for next year.
 - iii. Fundraising could occur during 2026 Hoover Hometown Days.

- c. Phase 4 Heritage Hill:
 - i. Applying for tax credits, closer on the Main Street side.
 - ii. Designed in a way that the Main Street facing side could be used as the front, though it will actually face away from it.
 - iii. This is located outside of the Historic District, however there may be a new Urban Renewal area in the City, that would include East Main Street, avoiding residential properties.
 - iv. Purpose:
 - 1. Parkside development is having financial issues and will not be developing at Heritage Hill Phase 4.
 - 2. A new developer will received the same kind of offer.
 - v. Not anticipating historic preservation involvement yet.
- d. Comprehensive plan
 - i. Feedback is planned to be collected in September.
 - ii. Historic Preservation should be included in the updated Comprehensive plan.
 - iii. It would include downtown reconstruction at the square, including infrastructure.
 - iv. There is a storytelling component in video form.
 - v. Participating UI students may be around town this summer to visit West Branch.
- e. Main Street grant applications:
 - i. There were approximately 9 applications.
- f. Grass roots opportunities to help those who are unable to care for their lawns and homes:
 - i. There is nothing unofficial known at this time. There could have been a strategy in the comprehensive plan to incorporate it in the City for those that cannot afford this effort, but it was not adopted at this time due to conflicts at the State level.
 - ii. Silver chord may have the opportunity.
 - iii. Dana will connect with Jessie to see what she thinks.
- 6. Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 at 6:30pm
- 7. Adjourn
 - a. Moved by: John Fuller
 - b. Seconded By: Lou Picek
 - c. All ayes. The motion carries