



Members Present: Raivo Balciunas, Dave Barnes, Jenny Ebert, Robert Gough, Rick Schemm

Members Absent: Charlie Johnson, Greg Kocken, Dave Barnes

Staff Present: Peter Baumgartner, Ned Noel

Public Present: Pat Batz

The following items were on the agenda:

- 1. Call to order**
Chair Ebert called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m.
- 2. Roll call**
Roll was taken and a quorum was present.
- 3. Approval of 10/2/23 Minutes**
Member Balciunas moved to approve and Member Schemm seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- 4. Local Landmark Designation & Public Hearing - 235 Roosevelt Ave.**
At the last meeting, the commission directed staff to notice for the public hearing to designate the property for local landmark.

Pat Batz, the applicant, mentioned that he is interested in getting a plaque in front of his house and that it can replace the realtor's sign.

Motion to approve the nomination by Member Schemm, seconded by Member Gough. Motion passed unanimously.

- 5. Local Landmark Nomination Consideration Update - 109 Marston Ave.**
Mr. Noel presented the final consideration for the potential landmarking of 109 Marston Ave., reading the following email from Member Kocken into record:

I have thought a lot about this, but ultimately, I would still vote against local landmark status. The blueprints identify the changes, but there is little evidence to suggest the architect was significant or that the changes (which slightly modify the symmetry of the front entrance through landscaping, among other changes) were part of some larger trend to modify colonial styled homes during that time period with asymmetrical elements. The house largely retains symmetry, but the absence of other expected elements like shutters on the main façade's windows doesn't inspire too much confidence in landmarking the house as an exemplary example of the style. Further, we cannot identify any significant previous homeowners notable enough to warrant landmark status.

Others may have differing thoughts, and I would certainly respect whatever decision the commission makes in regard to this house.

Thanks,
Greg

After some discussion on Member Kocken's email, and the information already turned up by staff and Kocken, staff was directed to continue to research the property.

6. Forest Hill Cemetery National Register Questionnaire

Members Gough and Kocken have prepared a questionnaire to begin the process. SHPO reviewed the questionnaire and provided the following letter attached. After some discussion it was determined that a grant should be pursued to hire a consultant to handle the nomination. Staff was directed to consult with Parks Department to see if they are on board with it, then seek funding.

Motion by Schemm to pursue nationally landmark the cemetery, seconded by Member Balciunas. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Work Plan Review

Mr. Noel gave an overview of the 2024 Work Plan.

The Landmarks Commission had the following changes to the work plan:

- Change tiles in #10 to titles.
- For #11, do a special event or mailing in May for Historic Preservation Month. Invite The Local Store to pitch their stories.
- Change #1 to promote the guidebook.

Motion to approve the 2024 work plan by Member Schemm, seconded by Member Gough. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Historical Eau Claire Plats

Mr. Noel presented a selection of slides from the recent Zoning Policy Advisory Committee (ZPAC) meeting for the Landmarks Commission's edification.

9. Future agenda items and announcements

- The December 4 meeting is cancelled.
 - Motion by Member Gough to cancel the December 4 meeting, seconded by Member Schemm. Motion passed unanimously.

10. Adjournment

Chair Ebert called for adjournment of the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

Submitted by,



Rick Schemm
Secretary



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

October 24, 2023

Gregory Kocken
UWEC Library
105 Garfield Ave.
Eau Claire, WI 54701

Dear Mr. Kochen:

Thank you for your nomination questionnaire regarding the Forest Hill Cemetery, located at **822 Emery Street, Eau Claire, Eau Claire County**. The Resource Evaluation Committee of the State Historic Preservation Office has carefully reviewed information to evaluate the potential for listing on the State Register and National Register of Historic Places.

Based on the information provided, the committee believes that the Forest Hill Cemetery may be potentially eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for Architecture for landscape architecture only. The committee feels that the cemetery is a vernacular example of the "rural" cemetery movement and later, of the "lawn" type cemetery movement. In order to successfully nominate the cemetery, the committee suggests hiring a consultant to conduct additional research to create a strong argument for significance for landscape architecture based on the guidelines in Bulletin 41: *Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places*.

Please know that our determination is based on the strict requirements of the National Register program. If you decide to pursue a nomination, we strongly urge you to secure the services of an experienced consultant to assist in the preparation of the nomination. I have enclosed a list of persons who have expressed interest in this work and who have recently successfully completed nominations in Wisconsin.

Again, we would like to thank you for your submission and interest in the program. If you have any additional questions regarding the State Register or the National Register in Wisconsin, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Hilton
National Register Coordinator

✓cc: Ned Noel, City of Eau Claire