

Anacortes Historic Preservation Board Meeting minutes
4 p.m., Wednesday, 9 May 2018
Anacortes Museum Library

Members present: Chair Bob Ross, Vice Chair Ken Hansen, Secretary Bunny Heiner, Gunnar Christiansen, and Mark Nihart; Museum Staff: Bret Lunsford and Elaine Walker

Chair Bob Ross called the meeting to order at 4 p.m. and the minutes of the 11 April were approved as presented.

Bob and Bret gave a report on the recent tour of the Olson Building. Bob said that the exterior of this brick building needs repointing and there is thin plaster over lath. The basement is full of shelving. The steel beams on the street front wall are in bad shape. However, based on his experience as a professional architect, Bob thought the building looked promising. Bret said the foundation walls were in better shape than he had anticipated, although there is some settling and the under-sidewalk structure is in poor shape but could be walled off. Mark commented that there are underground tunnels throughout Anacortes. In addition to Bob and Bret, also on the tour were Chris Moore, Nick Vann, Brian Clark, Susan Rooks, and Don Measmer. After Bob had to leave the tour, the rest of the group met at the Port of Anacortes offices. Bret reported that both the Port and the City of Anacortes are supportive of the Housing Authority's interest and plans for the Olson Building. As Bret said, "we have successfully put the ball in their court."

Mark asked about the status of the Marine Supply building. Bret said this was not under his authority but perhaps a tenant or a foundation might be able to work things out.

Next under discussion was the Anacortes Junk Company structure, which is also known as the livery stable because animals used to be housed there. Bret said that Chris Moore suggested that the DAHP's Heritage Barn Register program be contacted for possible help in saving this structure.

Bret commented that community support for the Olson block is apparent and that the Port is now more willing to work to preserve the structures. The SEPA on the livery stable is closed and a demo permit has already been issued; the emphasis now is on saving the façade. The best hope seems to be help from the DAHP's Heritage Barn Register program, with the possibility of moving the Anacortes Junk Company building - or at least the façade - to a new location and do restoration work.

Bob and Mark think the Port wants the land behind the Olson Building/Marine Hardware and the current location of the livery stable to be available to the Port for expansion. Bret said the board could "make a pitch for more time" for possible preservation trust funding. Mark recommended that the City should be put on notice for relocation sites. It was suggested that perhaps the façade could find a new home in the Port's new events center.

Mark asked if we should pursue the DAHP's Heritage Barn Register program angle and Bret said he could continue conversations with Chris Moore and ask for a proposal from Chris and would let the board know the results so we could make a proposal. Mark said we should look into providing incentives for private property owners. Bob then raised the issue of the future of the transit shed; discussion on this issue was not continued at this time.

Bret apologized to Ken for the delay in posting Ken's "Researching Your House" material. Elaine said that material on Historic House Research is underway. Ken is to order house plaques for completed house research projects, including the 1890 Edwin and Matilda Byron house.

Next, Bob and Bret discussed the AHPB's awards to be presented at the City Council meeting on 21 May. The two will prepare a power point to highlight the board's accomplishments over the past year, including educational workshops, input for the new comp plan, and recommendations to amend the City's demo process, to include a demo fee and adding the requirement for photos before the demolition of a structure.

Bret discussed incentives to encourage local certification of buildings, which would add to the value of the House History Program. At present only eight structures are locally certified.

The final item discussed was the board retreat at the Maritime Heritage Center, scheduled for Monday, 15 October 2018. This will be a five-hour event, starting at 10 a.m.

Bret reminded the board that members are invited to the museum-wide barbeque in July, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

The next regular board meeting will be at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, 13 June 2018. Vicky Stasch wants to do a presentation at this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia E. (Bunny) Heiner
Secretary