

**Minutes
Town of Windermere
Historical Preservation Board
June 25, 2013**

Call to Order

Windermere Historical Preservation Board Meeting was called to order on June 25, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Windermere Library, 520 Main Street, Windermere, Florida by Treasurer Joan Foglia who acted as Chairman Pro Tem due to the absence of Chairman Hannah Ammar.

Attendance

Historical Preservation Board Members present at the meeting were: Theresa Schretzmann-Myers, Joan Foglia, Mary Frances Howard, Amy Dubois. Also present were Windermere Garden Club Representative and Tree Board member Jackie Rapport, Town Council Liaison John Armstrong, Town Manager Robert Smith and Dr. Donald Green, Historian.

Minutes Approval

May 29, 2013 Minutes were approved as written.

Treasurers Report

Historic Board Treasurer Joan Foglia reported there is still approximately \$7,400 remaining in the Historic Preservation Board account available to the committee for use in the cultural landscape restoration plans for the 1887 Schoolhouse National Register Historic site.

Town Hall Identification Signage

Treasurer Joan Foglia reported that a Purchase Order for "Town Hall" identification letters to be placed on the pediment of historic Windermere Town Hall was completed and submitted for flat cut letters, ¾ inch thick or less, \$78.6 per letter for 8 inch letters, for \$629. Metal lettering will be 8 inches tall and read, "Town Hall." The font will be Times Roman. Town Manager Robert Smith reported that the Purchase Order had been approved and an Invoice submitted for the metal lettering.

Band Sponsorship Update

Joan Foglia reported that Downtown Business Committee has retained control of the Band/Entertainment Committee for Food Truck Fridays. Historical Board will not be taking over responsibility for Band/Entertainment Committee

Update on Sponsorship of Historical Marker Grant

Joan Foglia reported that Windermere Garden Club has approved second \$1,000 donation. Garden Club Representative Jackie Rapport concurred. Parks and Recreation has approved a \$2,000 grant for sponsorship of the Historical Marker at the 1887 Schoolhouse. Joan Foglia reported that she had drafted a letter to Windermere Rotary Club President Elect requesting a \$5,000 donation from Rotary for the Historical Marker sponsorship.

Historical Orange Grove at Schoolhouse National Register Historic Site

Theresa Schretzmann-Myers reported due diligence was completed with an independent tree report of the 1887 School House historic site completed on May 25, 2013 by ISA Certified Master Arborist Eric Engstrom of Green Burst Tree Service, 407-850-8733. Meetings were also conducted on May 29, 2013 with Citrus Experts Maurice "Maury" Boyd from McKinnon Corporation Ph: 407-656-1333; John Arnold from Josh's Citrus Trees Phone; 352-242-7915. All three experts stated many of the historic Citrus planted circa 1920's are in direct competition with volunteer scrub Laurel Oaks growing in the historic grove and are competing for water, nutrients, and sunlight. The Laurel Oaks being the larger and more vigorous species will cause further decline to the Citrus. There is also the potential for damages as the Laurel Oaks fail in part or whole. Mr. Boyd's opinion was that there could be historic genome still at the site that could be resistant to the HLB (Hung Ling Bing) Citrus Greening disease because there was no Citrus Greening disease at the historic grove site. It was the recommendation of Arborist Engstrom and citrus expert Boyd that the historic citrus trees should be pruned restoratively, fertilized with organic citrus fertilizer and given the best chance for revival and survival so cloning from historic cuttings can be done. The two citrus experts suggested that open areas of the grove be replanted with historic citrus varieties such as Valencia, Hamlin, Pamelo, Seville, Temple, Honeybell, Dancy, Duncan Grapefruit, Satsuma, Page, Rough Lemon, Pomelo.

Concerned citizens and Parks and Recreation members wanted to keep all three scrub Laurel Oaks in their present location competing with the historic orange grove trees. A Tri Committee mediation meeting took place on May 30, 2013 with Council Liaison Jim O'Brien, Parks and Recreation, Historical Preservation Board and Windermere Tree Board to resolve opposition to removal of the scrub Laurel Oaks by Parks and Recreation and concerned citizens. Historical Board and Tree Board offered to mitigate removal of the scrub Laurel Oaks by planting 25 Florida Native trees on the 1887 historic property perimeter along with 125 historic camellias as per the conceptual site plan that was planned by the Town citizens at the 1887 historic property charette. Historical Board and Tree Board also offered to plant Florida Native trees on the opposite side (west) of Forest Street for mitigation to compensate for removal. This was not acceptable to Parks and Recreation and concerned citizens. In an effort to move forward Historical Board and Tree Board made the compromise to temporarily leave one Laurel Oak on the northwest side that was in the middle of 4 of the historic orange trees with the intent to revisit removal of the Laurel Oaks within one year. The other two Laurel Oaks would be removed as per the suggestion of the three experts and due diligence reports.

Town Manager Robert Smith reported that removal of 2 of the Laurel Oaks in the historic grove had been completed along with other hazard Laurel Oaks that are diseased along 7th, and an Avocado that has been killed by the Red Bay Ambrosia beetle that needs to be removed and burned to keep the beetles from infesting other Bay Laurel species in the town according to the Arborist Engstrom.

Historical Board scheduled a workday for removal of vines, clean-up and pruning dead wood from historic citrus at the 1887 Schoolhouse National Register Historic Site on Saturday, July 13, 2013 from 8am until 4pm. Robert Smith stated that all debris could be piled up in 1887 parking lot for removal by Public Works and/or Waste Pro.

Action Items:

1. Joan Foglia has drafted letter to Rotary Club asking for sponsorship of the Historical Marker for \$5,000. Needs to be finalized and sent to Rotary President Elect.
2. Workday by Historic Board and Tree Board volunteers, Saturday, July 13, 2013, 8am until 4p.m.

Next Historic Board Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 24, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

I hereby certify these are the Minutes of the Windermere Historic Preservation Board.

Dated this 25th day of June, 2013.

THERESA SCHRETMANN-MYERS

Theresa Schretzmann-Myers

Secretary, Windermere Historical Preservation Board