Village of Palmyra Preservation Commission Meeting
November 13, 2008

Present: Chris Daly, Vicky Daly, Mike Haskins, Mitch Smith

The meeting began at 6:55 pm.

Old Business:

A. Julian Adams’ talk about the value of preservation. Many ideas arose as a result of his talk.
   - We should produce a newsletter, which might be put on the Palmyra website, too.
   - We could look into having a Palmyra Preservation Commission website. It was pointed out that there was a village website, too, which it could be linked to, to start with. Commission member biographies could be listed there, also.
   - The sign in sheet from the October talk could be a source of connections for networking.
   - Billie Ray Walker from the Courier Journal was present for the talk. Mayor Daly offered to try to find the Courier Journal article.
   - Mayor Daly offered to ask the village office staff to find out who the contact people were for the Ontario and Monroe counties preservation boards.
   - Mitch Smith offered to get contact information for Cynthia Howk.

B. We are going to try to get hand-out copies of Julian Adams’ powerpoint presentation.

New business:

A. Newly appointed alternates. Maria Krogemann has been appointed as an alternate, but as of November 13th, had not yet been signed in. Rhett Butler is pending as an alternate.

B. Biographies.
   - Commission member biographies are needed for Certified Local Grant application documentation, and might be put on the website also.
   - A photo of the Commissioners should be included on the website, and a group photo will be taken at the December meeting.
   - Mitch Smith will talk to Bill Unterborn (who is the Village’s site webmaster) about adding info about the preservation commission.

C. Newsletter – We should try to find examples of other preservation board newsletters.

D. Informational Flyer – Chris Daly will work on having a first draft by the December meeting.
E. Draft Landmark form: The East Aurora landmark form was tweaked to become the Village of Palmyra’s landmark form.
   a. Mitch spoke to Mark Warren of East Aurora’s preservation board who said that their board had only received one landmark application, which had not been executed well; it was a bad example.
   b. Mitch stated that our commission should encourage specific home owners to apply for landmark status
   c. Mayor Daly recommended that the commission wait until the National Register for Historic Places application survey is complete, so that some of the research is done for us.
   d. Mayor Daly reminded the commission that Julian Adams suggested that the Commission first work with the “low hanging fruit”, such as the village bandstand or the flag pole. Once the preservation commission is comfortable with the process, then they should move toward encouraging home owners to nominate their buildings to be landmarks.
F. Architect. The CLG application process requires that there be an architect on the commission. To the best of the commissioners’ knowledge, there isn’t one living in the village of Palmyra. The mayor has spoken to Julian Adams about it, but Mr. Adams is not worried about it. Mitch said he would look into it.
G. Timeline for instituting the Commission. Mitch Smith would like to aim for late Spring 2009 to have the preservation commission up and running.

Next Meeting: Next meeting is December 11, 2008.
   A. The Mayor will show the apartment upstairs in the Sexton Building.
   B. There will be a group photo of the preservation commission members, so please be prepared for that.
   C. Please bring your calendars to the December meeting, to coordinate future events.
   D. Mitch mentioned that perhaps we could sponsor workshops or talks every month or every other month as a community outreach. A home owner could come and speak about their home, etc. We might sponsor a historic house tour. The application for landmark status could include a question about whether the applicant would be interested in being on a historic house tour.
   E. Everyone is asked to bring ideas for workshops or events with them to the December meeting. Possible ideas are Bonnie or Steve Hays about HPI’s preservation work, or Paul VanScott’s experiences. If we can line up events for the next year, they could be included in the Palmyra Brochure’s events listing.
   F. Mike Haskins said he’d ask Bonnie or Steve Hays if they’d be willing to speak at a January meeting.
   G. We need to come up with a name for the public outreach events.
H. Mitch said that if there were any ideas or comments to be made between meetings, they didn’t have to wait.

The meeting closed at 8:10 pm.