

## HERITAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF PUTNAM COUNTY

### ANNUAL MEETING

March 18, 2021

#### Minutes

President Cammie Goldman called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and welcomed all participants to the meeting. Marsh Davis, the executive director for Indiana Landmarks, is the guest speaker for the evening. Cammie introduced Mr. Davis.

Kristen reported that there were 23 on-line registration for this meeting.

Judy reported that the current bank balance is \$31,615.01.

Cammie had board members share a review of the HPS activities during the past year. All meetings during this past year were held virtually via ZOOM. Highlights of the year included the historic street signage that was put up to designate the historic districts in Greencastle.

Phil provided an update on the status of the O'Hair house located on the DePauw campus. This is a prominent structure with a long history in Greencastle. HPS was contacted by Warren Whitesell, head of buildings and grounds at DePauw, regarding raising this building due to it's poor condition. An assessment was completed to determine how much it would cost to restore the O'Hair House. Tommy Kleckner, district director for Indiana Landmarks has been assisting with this project. The last discussion with DePauw was January 6, 2021. DePauw has said that there needs to be resolution by the end of 2021.

Cammie told about the MLK Plaque that was added to the Heritage Wall to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speech at Gobin United Methodist Church.

Margaret shared the Court House Art Project. The Indiana Bar Association had contacted HPS to ask if we would be interested in acquiring an original piece of art that featured the Putnam County Courthouse. HPS worked with the Arts Council to complete this project. Matt Reese completed a woodcut of the courthouse which was presented to the Indiana Bar Association at a ceremony in the courthouse. A copy of the print was given to the courthouse for display.

HPS partnered with the Putnam County Library and the League of Women Voter's to host the Women's Equality Day at Roban Park in recognition of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, giving women the right to vote.

Cammie shared the mission of HPS. She also acknowledged that there was no Annual Meeting in 2020 due to the restrictions of COVID 19.

Cammie welcomed the new board members: Sara Bridges, and Casey Renick. Phil Gick will return to the board having been off the board for 2 years. The new officers and the advisory

board were introduced. Participating members in this meeting can respond in the “chat” portion in ZOOM.

The guest speaker for the evening was Marsh Davis the Executive Director of Indiana Landmarks, which is the largest statewide non-profit historic preservation organization in the United States with 6,000 members in Indiana. Indiana Landmarks was founded in 1960. Their goals are to revitalize communities, reconnect with our heritage and save meaningful places.

Indiana Landmarks has a long history with HPS. Some of the projects they helped Putnam County with were restoring the front of the downtown opera house after the fire, restoring the Civil War Monument if Forest Hills Cemetery, helping with the restoration and sale of the O’Hair House on 231 North of Greencastle, getting the historic building in Bainbridge assessed. Mr. Marsh shared the importance of partnering with local organizations.

A focus now for Indiana Landmarks is saving the Historic Houses of Worship. Due to decline in membership, many churches are struggling to maintain their buildings.

Mr. Marsh answered questions from the meeting participants.

Up coming events for HPS in the coming year include:

- Walking brochures for the courthouse square
- Moving and restoring the freight depot
- Projects in Russellville, Roachdale and Bainbridge
- Coming to resolution on the O’Hair House on the DePauw Campus
- Making a decision on the historic building in Bainbridge

Mayor Dory provided words of support.

A motion to adjourn was made by Phil with a second by Kristen.