

Kankakee County Historic Preservation Commission Public Hearing

Summary of Minutes

September 14, 2015

Members Present:

John Adams (chair *pro temp*), Mardene Hinton, Jane Johnson, Daron Kinzinger , and Jim Paul.

Also Present:

Michelle Sadler, Joanne Farlander, Rosanne Gianotti, and Gary Regas.

Members Absent:

Terry Johnston, Neely Provost-Regas, Ron Shank, and Pat Wagner.

No Quorum Present:

Mr. Adams (chair *pro temp*), called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm in the second floor conference room of the Kankakee County Building. Since Ms. Hinton made the presentation requesting historic landmark status for the Limestone Cemetery (Hawkins Cemetery), her attendance could not contribute to the quorum.

Communications:

Ms. Hinton stated her address as 2473 Potters Turn, Kankakee, Illinois.

Call of Nomination for Public Hearing:

As applicant, Ms. Hinton gave a ten minute explanation of reasons for nominating Kankakee County historic landmark status for the Limestone Cemetery (Hawkins Cemetery) located on West State Route 113, Kankakee, Illinois 60901. The property owner of the cemetery is Limestone Township. The township board has given permission to proceed with this landmark designation.

In her statement of significance of the cemetery, Ms. Hinton stated that: 1) the property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, and 2) the property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history. Ms. Hinton further stated that the period of significance was 1835-1965 with the following significant dates: 1) first burial in 1835, 2) Illinois Central Railroad construction from 1852-53, 3) agricultural development from 1850s-60s, 4) Limestone Cemetery Association established in 1903, and 5) the burial of veterans from 1835-1965.

After Ms. Hinton's presentation, Mr. Gary Regas of 1374 N. Tower Road/2967B W Rte 113, Kankakee, Illinois, asked about the tombstones lying in the dirt. Ms. Hinton responded that Limestone Township wants to take care of this problem of tombstones leaning or lying on the ground. Mr. Regas stated that for the past two years at the annual Limestone town meeting, a budget was passed for straightening up the tombstones. The amount budgeted was from \$2000-\$5000. Mr. Regas stated that a firm was to do this work annually, but it is not getting done.

Mr. Regas asked if there was any downside to proceeding with historic landmark designation for the cemetery. Ms. Hinton responded that she could not think of any. Mr. Adams suggested that there may be some grants available to apply for. Ms. Joanne Farlander of 2967D W Rte 113, Kankakee, Illinois, stated that a cemetery in Bradley is becoming a park in order to protect it.

Mr. Regas asked if Ms. Hinton had talked to Mr. Ed Meents. Ms. Hinton responded that she had done so and that he did not want anything moved. Ms. Rosanne Giannotti of 1208 N. Main Ave./2967B W Rte 113, Kankakee, Illinois, said that Mr. Meents is still finding graves that he did not know existed.

Another issue discussed was the land survey. Mr. Regas was concerned about three surveys of the cemetery that offer different interpretations about the northeast corner where he and Dr. Handy own separate properties. Ms. Hinton stated that the cemetery was plotted in 1903. Mr. Kinzinger stated that in any survey dispute, the latest survey would be binding. Ms. Hinton concluded that any disputed boundaries would be a legal issue between the parties involved.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

Other:

None

Adjournment:

Dr. Paul made a motion to adjourn at 3:56 pm. Mr. Kinzinger seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Jim Paul, Secretary