

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
June 26, 2014**

A meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission of the Village of River Forest was held on Thursday, June 26, 2014, in the Community Room of Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue, River Forest, Illinois.

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Chairman Franek, Commissioners Graham-White, Zurowski, Raino-Ogden, Prestes and McMahon

Absent: Commissioner Harding

Also Present: Assistant Village Administrator Scheiner and Management Intern Creer

II. WELCOME OF NEW COMMISSIONER BRIAN PRESTES

Chairman Franek formally welcomed new Commissioner Brian Prestes.

III. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

David Burns stated he is seeking the support of the Historic Preservation Commission for a zoning variance for the proposed construction of a garage at his property, 146 Keystone. Mr. Burns would like to extend his garage above the 18 foot restriction on accessory buildings, per the zoning code, in order to maintain his property's historic integrity. Mr. Burns provided photographs to indicate the appropriate size of a garage considering the age of his property. Commissioner Raino-Ogden suggested the garage maintain a twelve-twelve pitch in keeping with the property and reduce the size of the garage from 24 feet to 18 feet in order to reduce the height. Commissioner Zurowski stated the garage could be constructed within the constraints of the current zoning code with modifications to the current drawings. Chairman Franek stated Mr. Burns could inform the Village Board that the Commission would like the guidance of the Village Board as to what role the Commission should play in zoning variance requests. The Commission praised Mr. Burns for his desire to maintain the historic integrity of his property.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 24, 2014

Commissioner Zurowski made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McMahon, to accept the minutes as presented.

Voice Vote:

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0

**V. PROCEDURES FOR REVIEWING APPLICANTS REQUEST FOR SUPPORT RE:
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2014

Chairman Franek stated he thought the commission did not have jurisdiction to recommend to the Village Board that the variance be approved unless so requested by the Village Board. He also stated the Commission currently has no standards in place for providing recommendations to other boards.

Commissioner McMahon stated she attended the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) meeting in support of Mr. Burns and received feedback from the ZBA indicating the board would appreciate comments from the Historic Preservation Commission. There was a discussion about how to approach potentially altering the zoning ordinance to allow for variances based on historic significance and whether the Commission could provide support for a variance request based on the historic nature of the property. Assistant Village Administrator Scheiner stated the Village Code indicates the proper approach to this issue would be to ask the Village Board for guidance before providing support for the variance.

VI. CONTINUED DISCUSSION REGARDING FUTURE COMMISSIONER INITIATIVES & PUBLIC EDUCATION EFFORTS

A. HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD APPLICATION REVIEW

The Commission awarded John and Maureen Heakin of 344 Keystone with the Historic Preservation Restoration Award and directed staff to inform the property owners. The Commission directed staff to provide a plaque to the Historic Preservation Award winner and list the winners on the Village website.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

There was discussion about the use of a sub-commission in situations where the Commission will be unable to achieve a quorum to review applications for Certificates of Appropriateness.

Assistant Village Administrator Scheiner informed the Commission that the Cook County Forest Preserve will be going through planned development for its proposed addition.

The next Historic Preservation Commission meeting was scheduled for July 24, 2014 at 7 PM.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Zurowski made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Raino-Ogden, to adjourn the meeting at 8:37.

Respectfully submitted:

Emily Creer
Management Intern

Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2014

Approved:

David Franek, Chairperson
Historic Preservation Commission

Date