

Approved 10/14/2025

**Lanesboro Heritage Preservation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 9, 2025 – 5:00 p.m.
Lanesboro Community Center and Zoom**

Members Present:

☒ Mindy Albrecht-Benson ☒ Ceil Allen ☒ Susie Harris ☒ Kate O’Neary ☒ Leah Steding

Staff Present:

☒ Mitchell Walbridge ☒ Darla Taylor

Visitors: Bonita Underbakke

Call to Order: Member Albrecht-Benson called the regular meeting of the Heritage Preservation Commission to order at 5:00 p.m.

- A. Agenda:** Member Allen entered a motion to approve the agenda; Member O’Neary seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- B. Public Comments:** No public comments were shared.
- C. Approval of Minutes:** Member Steding entered a motion to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2025, regular meeting as presented; Member Harris seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

New Business

- A. Lanesboro History Museum – Director Presentation:** John Nichol, Lanesboro History Museum Director, delivered a brief presentation on museum operations, services offered by the museum, and the progress that Director Nichol has on his vision for the museum since taking over as the director in 2025. Director Nichol shared that one of the most important elements to him is providing programming to the community and visitors. When he gets more oriented to his role as director, continued opportunities to partner with the Heritage Preservation Commission will be explored.
- B. Lanesboro Talking Trail Project Update:** Joe Goetzke, Director of the Lanesboro Area Chamber of Commerce, provided an update on the Lanesboro Talking Trail Project. The Talking Trail has 30 sites within Lanesboro that provide a QR-code initiated recording that tells a brief story about the site. The project went live on June 7, 2025. Local talent provided the voice over for the recordings and the narratives were written by Steve Harris. The Talking Trail will boost heritage tourism in Lanesboro. A ribbon cutting will take place on June 12 to celebrate the project’s completion.
- C. Consider Building Permit Application – Parcel ID 190180000:** Members reviewed a building permit application for the installation of a sign at 105 Elmwood Street East. Keith Richardson applied to install a non-illuminated sign at his new retail Hammarama museum and gift shop. After review, Member Albrecht-Benson entered a motion to recommend approval to the Planning and Zoning Commission contingent upon the graphics provided and that the sign would be two-sided; Member Harris seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.
- D. Certified Local Government Status:** City Administrator Mitchell Walbridge confirmed that the City of Lanesboro has maintained its Certified Local Government status and that the Heritage Preservation Commission is completing the annual requirements to maintain the status. Administrator Walbridge stated it is important to maintain the status so that the City can work to obtain state and federal funding for future heritage preservation projects. No action was taken this day.
- E. PreserveMN Annual Conference:** Administrator Walbridge shared the 2025 conference will be held in New Ulm, Minnesota in September. Registration will open in early July. Administrator Walbridge requested members let him know if they are interested in attending the conference so that scholarships may be applied for. No action was taken this day.

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Miscellaneous

Member O'Neary shared information on past flooding in Lanesboro. Member O'Neary also presented historic photographs of major flooding events for the members to view.

Member Albrecht-Benson adjourned the meeting at 5:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell Walbridge
City Administrator/Clerk