# City of Tomah Historic Preservation Commission

## Thursday, April 13, 2023 City Council Chambers, City Hall

## Secretary’s Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m. by president Shawn Zabinski. Present were Zabinski, Suzanne Baker-Young, Deb Chesser, Jim Weinzatl, and Richard Yarrington.

Zabinski presented some ideas for the local historic register standards that La Crosse has in their application. General consensus of the commission is that this would be suitable for the Tomah application as well. Zabinski will pass along to Shane Rolff to have a final draft made and ready to present and vote on at the next meeting. A lengthy discussion was held regarding the Certificate of Appropriateness. It was brought up that is a property owner is looking for financial assistance in repairing or maintaining a historic property said property would have to be on the state historic register as the city does not have the funds available at all times. Any tax credits would also have to be at the state level. This issue will be discussed further at the next meeting.

A discussion was held regarding the process for designating properties or districts at the local level. Several ideas were shared including determining the age of the building, unique or otherwise notable architecture including but not limited to architect or building designer and/or builder, historic events taking place at the site, historic persons involved or that lived or owned the property.

Copies of the current Mission Statement were handed out to be reviewed. It was decided that after the adapting of a local historic register the Mission Statement should include wording that encourages property to be added to such. Also, the line “We are dedicated to investigating people, places, and events….” Should be edited to read “We are dedicated to investigating **and documenting** people, places, and events…” Further review and discussion will be held at future meetings.

Zabinski and Chesser updated the commission on the Michianza day fundraiser. Vendor applications are ready to be sent out. The only change from last year is the date. Date for 2023 is August 5th. These will be printed using the city letterhead. City Parks and Rec department will take care of table set-up and tear-down. Both the gold exhibit building and hockey rink building have been reserved for the event. Zabinski is going to check with the Boys & Girls Club to see if they would be willing to hand out flyers during the 4th of July parade. Baker-Young will have announcements made at the AMP concerts.

Baker-Young shared that she is collaborating with archeologist& historian Ryan Howell on a program being held at the Monroe County Local History Room in Sparta on May 11th. The program is on the 1942 expansion of Camp (now Fort) McCoy and the eviction of residents by right of eminent domain. Several of the families involved had members that were prominent citizens in Tomah.

A motion to adjourn was made by Weinzatl and seconded by Chesser. All ayes, meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Suzanne Baker-Young, HPC Secretary