

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LaPorte's Historic Preservation Commission Announces Formal Review of its Preservation Guidelines

LaPorte, Indiana. June 13, 2012. The City of LaPorte 's Historic Preservation Commission today announced that at its regular meeting on June 6th, a committee consisting of members Tim Stabosz, Neill Doherty, and associate member Mason Fleisher, was appointed to collect input from all relevant parties, and come up with recommendations, as the Commission seeks to update its "Preservation Guidelines" book.

Mr. Stabosz, who Chairs the committee, stated, "Local historic designation empowers individuals, and groups of neighbors (with the City of LaPorte as overseer), the opportunity to band together, and agree to follow certain design standards, with the goal of protecting the historic character, originality, and charm, of their neighborhoods. A form of protective covenant, the original Preservation Guidelines book is a marvelous document, which a profound amount of time and energy went into creating. It is, and has been, successful in providing a 'plain English,' well illustrated guide, for our citizens with designated houses to maintain and protect the 'authenticity' of their historic homes...and historic district property values. This having been said, the guidelines were originally published in 1991, with no thorough review having been done since then. Since the guidelines exist, as such, to serve and meet the needs of those who own property in local historic districts, it is appropriate for the Commission, at this time, to re-examine the guidelines, and to seek input from our designated property owners, experts on preservation, elected officials, and anyone interested in historic preservation in LaPorte."

Stabosz noted that a copy of the current guidelines book is available on the Historic Preservation Commission's section of the city's website (www.cityoflaporte.com), or, he can be e-mailed at tstabosz@csinet.net or phoned at 324-5087, and a direct link to the guidelines can be provided. Those with questions or concerns, or those who would like to know more about what local designation entails, may contact Stabosz as indicated above, or the City's Office of Community Planning and Development at 362-8260, or cityplanner@cityoflaporte.com.

The purpose of the City of LaPorte's Historic Preservation Commission is to consider designation requests for historically significant sites or groups of sites in the city, and to oversee the maintenance of the exterior of historic structures, in keeping with the spirit of the Commission's "Preservation Guidelines" book, for those structures formally designated. The Commission, with 7 members, was established 25 years ago, in 1987, by ordinance. Currently, approximately 40 properties, in total, are afforded the prestigious title of "designated historic property," in the city.

CONTACT: Tim Stabosz at 324-5087, or tstabosz@csinet.net; or Mary Jane Thomas at 362-8260, or cityplanner@cityoflaporte.com