

Memo

To: Historic Preservation Committee

Fr: Trevor Fuller, Planning and Zoning Administrator

Re: ACTION RE: 2016 CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT APPLICATIONS

Date: October 20, 2016

The committee made the recommendation at the July and September meetings to proceed with the CLG grant process to nominate the Robinson Hill Historic District and the Roger Minahan House, 3430 Langlade Road to the National Register of Historic Places.

Staff submitted a letter of intent for the projects in September. The next step in this process is to complete the application and solicit two estimates for the project from state-approved consultants and submit the materials to the Wisconsin Historical Society by November 11th of this year.

Attached, please find a section of the draft Robinson Hill Historic District application for your reference.

Staff will report more on the application and the grant process at the meeting.

Robinson Hill Historic District

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

The Village of Allouez Historic Preservation Committee and the village planner will manage the nomination project for the Robinson Hill Historic District to the State and National Registers of Historic Places. This district was identified in the Architectural and Historical Intensive Survey Report completed in 2013.

The Robinson Hill Historic District is at the north edge of the village, just south of the locally known geographic marker of Astor Historic District in the City of Green Bay. The well-defined cluster of 84 small to moderately sized homes were built over three decades, beginning in 1910, and were identified in the intensive survey report as representing the prevailing architectural styles of their time – Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, and Bungalow style being most prominent.

HOW DOES THE PROJECT MEET LOCAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION GOALS

Historic preservation in the Village of Allouez consists of a philosophy in the Village of Allouez Comprehensive Plan, a chapter in the village ordinances specifying historic preservation procedures, a society that brings awareness to the community, and a historic preservation committee who is committed to preserving the heritage of Allouez.

The primary historic preservation goal of the village is to ensure the continued existence of our heritage and to promote the importance this heritage has on the surrounding community. The Village of Allouez is landlocked, with the Fox River and East River making up our east and west borders and the larger cities of Green Bay and De Pere occupying land to the north and south. While this geographic location can bring about many benefits, it can also propose challenges when it comes to historic preservation – knowing that Allouez cannot expand outwards and costs to tear down and rebuild are often less than to preserve an existing structure and adapt for reuse.

The village is seeking out ways to be proactive rather than reactive in preserving our heritage. Nominating homes to the State Register and National Register is a great way to preserve our values and promote the importance of our heritage. The village has adhered to the philosophy of this goal by recently completing a project, which nominated two municipally-owned structures to the State Register and National Register. These nominations set an example for the village that has generated interest and public awareness in preserving our values and promoting our heritage.

The Village of Allouez Architectural and Historical Intensive Survey identified 13 individually eligible listings and three eligible historic residential districts in the village. Through recent public outreach and historic preservation promotion efforts, an excited interest has been generated from the property owners of the Robinson Hill Historic District. Owners of these properties are enthusiastic and motivated to have their homes nominated to the State Register and National Register. The village is interested in moving forward with this nomination to capitalize on this public interest and to continue to preserve and promote our heritage.

LIST PREVIOUS CLG FUNDED PROJECTS AND HOW THE COMMUNITY HAS BENEFITTED FROM THEM

The Village of Allouez was awarded CLG status in spring 2011. Since that time the village was awarded a grant for the completion of an Intensive Survey in 2012 and a grant for the nominations of two municipally owned buildings in 2013.

Through the completion of the Architectural and Historical Intensive Survey Report, the village was able to lay the foundation for historic preservation in our community. The report identified 13 individually eligible buildings and three eligible residential districts for the National Register. This survey was crucial, not only by identifying structures in the village to focus preservation efforts, but in creating a preservation attitude that has gained momentum in the community.

This momentum is still something the village is enjoying. The village was able to take advantage of the public support generated from the intensive survey report and pursue the nominations for two municipally owned buildings – a historic water pump house and the former Water Department Building. Both nominations were able to be funded through a CLG grant received in 2013. The nominations of these buildings were twofold. The first, to preserve two architecturally significant buildings in our community that represent a historically important political statement for the village – the creation of a water department to maintain autonomy from the neighboring cities of Green Bay and De Pere. The second benefit of this project was for a less divisive political statement – to show a “buy-in” from the village into historic preservation.

Both the pump house and the Water Department Building were recently approved to be placed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places. A formal dedication and plaque ceremony was held, recognizing these two buildings, during “Historic Preservation Month” in May.

Additional investigative work has begun, with more to follow for the Water Department Building, locally known as the “Community Center.” The work is to identify projects that will be needed to preserve the historical integrity of the structure and maximize the public use.

The pump house has also received attention as a potential site for a live-work art studio or for other adaptive reuse projects. Interested developers have expressed interest in preserving the exterior and renovating the interior. The village is very excited about these plans and looks forward to investigating further.

Research for nomination projects for the Miramar Historic District and two individually eligible properties outside of the Miramar District – the Herman A. & Lillian Greiling House (2568 S. Webster Avenue) and the Albert Neufeld House (204 E. Whitney Street) – are currently underway.

The Village of Allouez plans to continue using the momentum generated by the first projects to preserve our values and promote our heritage for current residents and future generations.