

Island Planners' Siding Debate Centers Around Accuracy of Historic Design

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taining some of their properties," said Mrs. Hoppenrath, who is also a member of the library board. "Come down and look at the library."

Mr. Dombroski agreed, "You can't keep paint on these buildings."

The commission may want to convey to the city that wood siding would be required in the historic district, city attorney Tom Evashevski said.

"What are we trying to do with architectural view?" asked Mr. Evashevski of the Planning Commission. "Are we more concerned with appearance, or are we interested in historical accuracy beyond appearance. Do we really care about whether it is wood, in fact, or whether it looks like wood?"

Commissioner Michael Straus volunteered to contact the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office and seek advice on how buildings should be treated in the historic district, including the remodeling of this building.

That office approved such siding for the St. Ignace Museum of Obibwa Culture, which is designated a historic building.



Remodeling work and plans for a third story at the Village Inn Restaurant on Astor Street received approval from the Mackinac Island Planning Commission in December and the city's architect in January. (Drawing courtesy of HopkinsBurns of Ann Arbor)

Commissioners agreed to continue discussions on the matter at their February meeting.

Architectural review of the Village Inn remodeling was placed on file by the commission. Commissioners will send a letter to building owner Dennis Cawthorne reminding him the height restriction for the building is 40 feet. The commission was told the building will be 39 feet high, but the submit-

ted plans don't say.

Mr. Neumann said the plans preserve the general appearance of the building's first and second floors.

Plans are to remodel the second floor and convert one apartment to an office that will have access to a third floor addition of a penthouse apartment. Wood siding would be used on the addition. This plan will not require any additional connections to the city's wastewater facili-



In preparation for new siding, plywood covers Mackinac Island's old medical center on Market Street. The building is being converted to housing for Island police. The fiber cement siding planned for the historic district structure raised concerns of city planners Tuesday, January 8.

ty. "The appearance of the enlarged and renovated building would be an appropriate treatment of this historic building," said Mr. Neumann in his report, "and consistent with the historic ambiance of the Is-

land."

The building was constructed on a vacant lot in 1981. City Council had granted Mr. Cawthorne a use permit at its January 2 meeting to allow the front deck to encroach approximately three feet onto the street.

Robert G. Benser received permission to make changes to two of three condominiums he is building on Mission Street. New plans will eliminate railings on the porches of Unit 1. Mr. Benser, who attended

the meeting, also will modify the look of the second unit. The floor plan will remain the same, with changes to the exterior.

"I just thought," he said, "after talking to neighbors and other people, it would be nice to really have the same buildings, pretty much the same size, just architecturally look different."

The Planning Commission next meets Tuesday, February 12, at 3 p.m. on the second floor of Community Hall.

Portage Twp. Revisits Authorization of Condo Project

By Paul Gingras

A difference in a master deed recorded at the county courthouse for Cedar Ridge Properties, a large condominium project in Portage Township, and a master deed approved by the Portage Township Board of Trustees, has led the township to revisit the special-use permit that allowed the development. The decision was made at the Tuesday, January 8, township board meeting.

Owner John Bertsma of Grand Rapids required a special-use permit to develop Cedar Ridge because the project crosses land zoned as rural residential and lake shore. Under the permit, all details of the plan had to be approved, said Planning Commission Chairman Karl Krepps.

The Cedar Ridge project on South Manistique Lake is well underway. Some buildings are up, said Township Clerk Marcia Mc-

Donald. Cedar Ridge will include 14 single-family residences and a common area.

Plans submitted to the township include a building designated for recreational use, however, on the recorded deed, the building is designated as commercial. This is a violation of what the township board and planning commission approved, Mr. Krepps said.

"Because of the differences, and because of a potential threat to our zoning, it has been suggested by John Wood, the township lawyer, that we revisit the special-use permit," said Township Supervisor Donald Ferris.

A meeting to examine the permit will include the planning commission, the township board, Mr. Bertsma, and whoever Mr. Bertsma wishes to bring with him, Mrs. McDonald said.

Responding to questions from

the public, Mr. Krepps said he does not know what the commercial building appearing on the deed is intended to be.

"It was not part of what was there when the township board held a public meeting," he said.

"Essentially, by designating this [building] commercial, if we do not re-address [the permit] and clarify this, then it gives them the option, since it is going to be in the deed, to make that commercial operation anything they would like to do that falls into what we consider commercial in our zoning," he said.

There are many ways to correct the problem, Mrs. McDonald said, including removing the commercial designation, or having Mr. Bertsma return to the board and apply for a new permit. If this happens, another public hearing will be scheduled.

Work on the project will not necessarily stop while the situation is addressed.

Local Millages

The board voted to place several millage renewals on the August primary ballot, instead of on the May school board election ballot, owing to low turnout at school elections.

The renewals include a 2-mill road millage and renewal of a 1-mill special projects millage, which was approved by voters in 2006. The ballot will also include a 0.5-mill renewal for fire department operations, 1.5 mills for ambulance operations, and 0.5 mills for the library. All millages are for two years.

Area Road Plan

At the request of the Mackinac County Road Commission, the township has submitted a prioritized list of projects to be completed in the coming five years. The list includes improvements to North Gould City Road, from McConnel Road to Camp A Road, with the goal of repairing damage caused by spring break up; of equal priority is work on Main Street in Curtis to prevent accumulation of water on the road; shoulder repairs to restore two full lanes on South Curtis Road; shoulder work and gravel placement on Camp A Road; gravel to cover corduroy logs on Ketola Road; McGahn Road is to receive new culverts, north and south of South Curtis Road, and the road will be widened.

"At this point in time, the township does not have enough money to tackle North Gould City Road," Mr. Ferris said. "Maybe by spring, we will."

Upgrades to Ambulances

The board approved \$12,000 to upgrade cardiac monitors in township ambulances from three-lead units to more sophisticated 12-lead units. The upgrade is required by Helen Newberry Joy Hospital as part of a local emergency medical service (EMS) transition from basic to advanced life support status, explained EMS Director Brad Kohvakka. The upgrade will allow the local department to provide the same service Luce County medical units provide when they are dispatched to aid the Portage Township EMS, he said.

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REQUEST FOR GARDEN BIDS City of St. Ignace DDA

The City of St. Ignace Downtown Development Authority is seeking bids on the planting and maintenance of its gardens and the weeding and maintenance of its parks for the 2008 and 2009 seasons. A listing of bid specifications may be picked up in the City Clerk's Office, located on the first floor of the St. Ignace Municipal Building beginning Monday, January 14, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The deadline for bid packages will be Monday, February 4, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.

The St. Ignace Downtown Development authority Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids and accept the proposal, which in the opinion of the Board, is in the best interest of the Downtown Development authority District.

Renee Vonderworth
City Clerk

BID REQUEST FOR MUSEUM INTERIOR PAINTING

The City of St. Ignace Downtown Development Authority is seeking bids on the interior painting of the Museum of Ojibwa Culture located at 500 North State Street, St. Ignace, MI. A listing of bid specifications may be picked up in the City Clerk's Office, located on the first floor of the St. Ignace Municipal Building beginning Thursday, January 17, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The deadline for bids will be 5:00 p.m. January 31, 2008. request for qualifications will be provided.

The St. Ignace Downtown Development Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids and accept the proposal, which in the opinion of the Board, is in the best interests of the Downtown Development Authority District.

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ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Unit Three Meeting

The Unit Three Meeting will be held on
Wednesday, January 23 at 6 :00 p.m.
at the McCann Building

Please contact your respective Unit Directors with any questions

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State Police Investigate Stolen Heater

The theft of a propane heater from a deer blind in Soo Township has led Michigan State Police to seek information through the Crime Stoppers program. The theft occurred between November 30 and December 8, 2007, in an area one mile southeast of 3 Mile Road and Mackinac Trail in Soo Township. A Mr. Heater Brand

Double Buddy Propane Heater was stolen, valued at \$140.

Anyone with information may call Crime Stoppers at (800) 465-7867. Callers may remain anonymous and tips leading to an arrest could earn a \$1,000 reward. Crime Stoppers will double any authorized reward for tips received during January.

Several Activities Are Planned for Les Cheneaux Snowfest



Les Cheneaux Elementary School student Grace Dunn won the 2008 Snowfest button design contest. She received a plaque and a \$50 savings bond from First National Bank, Les Cheneaux Branch.

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Most activities will begin there as well, or have registration there.

The Saturday craft show will be at Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church in Hessel this year.

Craft show coordinators invite people who want to serve concessions there as a fundraiser to apply with the Snowfest Committee.

The third annual Snowshoe Hare Race will be Saturday, and people of all ages and skill levels are invited to participate at their own pace.

A course has not yet been determined, but the race is expected to start in Hessel, and early registration is encouraged. Call 484-4157 to register or get information.

Participants can walk, run, or jog, and should bring a pair of snowshoes. Use of a free pair of snowshoes will be offered on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The Les Cheneaux Sportsman's Club will again offer its

clay pigeon shoot Saturday. Participants need only come to the Sportsman's Club House east of Cedarville to shoot.

Other activities planned for the weekend include barbecued food, children's games, a cross-country ski tour, and cardboard sled races.

Once the Snowfest schedule is finalized, schedules will be available at local businesses, and at the Welcome Center.

The St. Ignace News will run a complete schedule of events the week before Snowfest.

Volunteers are needed, and may call the Welcome Center at 484-3935 for more information. The Snowfest Committee is seeking people to run events or help coordinators. A coordinator is needed for the Cardboard Sled Races, which can be held either Saturday or Sunday.

The next Snowfest Committee meeting is Thursday, January 17, at the Runway Bar on Three-Mile Road in Hessel at 7:30 p.m.