

DRAFT LHPC Annual Report 2025

In 2025 the commission held four required quarterly meetings in January, April, July and October. The Commission's Local Landmarks Committee met 4 times and the Cemetery Committee met twice.

During the year, three commissioners, Tom Fetters, Eileen Mueller and Bob Wardzala, resigned their positions. Each of them served the Commission for over 10 years and as a group their experience, knowledge and contributions to the Commission were incredibly valuable, helping advance many of the Commission's efforts over the years.

The Commission began working with new Village Liaison Ranya Elkhatab.

The items below highlight the most important issues and work addressed by the Commission.

Support for the Lombard Historical Society and community:

- Letter of support drafted for the LHS CyArk Heritage Amplified Grant Application for a potential project at the Sheldon Peck Homestead.
- Members of the Commission assisted Boy Scout Troop 202 with a spring cemetery clean up and tabled at the LHS Victorian Cemetery picnic in the fall.

Discussion and work with Village Staff to dissolve Commission by-laws:

Since its inception, the Historic Commission has operated with its own set of by-laws. Over the years, the responsibilities of the Commission, especially as outlined in the by-laws, have changed. Discussions with Village staff resulted in exploration of dissolving the by-laws and incorporating any necessary specific provisions into Village Ordinance #1471 which directs the work of the Commission. This process would provide an opportunity for the Commission to conform more closely with the structure of other village boards. For the LHPC, it would mean changes to the number of commissioners, a new standard meeting time, and small changes clarifying responsibilities. Any changes to the ordinance need to ensure that the commission still meets the requirements for maintaining Certified Local Government status. Work continues to draft the necessary changes to the existing ordinance.

Historic Signs: Based on an application received from the property owner, the Commission recommended the designation of a historic sign for 16 S. Park Ave, Punky's Pub. A public

hearing and finding of fact were held. On March 6, the Village Board approved historic designation for the Old Style sign at Punky's Pub.

Landmark sites: The purpose of the commission, as stated in ordinance 1471, is to recommend the designation of sites having a special historical, community interest or value as landmark sites. Using grant funds over ten years ago, the Commission contracted a historical architect to conduct property surveys. The surveys identify sites and buildings in Lombard that potentially meet the criteria for landmark designation. Those surveys exist only in a printable form. Moving forward, the survey data should be digitized to make it searchable and to insure its integrity and safety. Discussions with Village IT staff have ascertained that the survey data can be appended to existing property data in the CIS system. This provides several advantages: existing software and in house expertise can be used, all data on a property would be stored in one place, the software provides the functions needed to research and display the data the commission needs, the software is currently in use by other historical record keepers, data will be secure and updated in accordance with all existing Village IT practices. Work continues as the commission looks at updating the data, loading into the CIS system, ensuring data consistency, data access rules, project planning and budgeting.

Great Western Trail: Approached by a member of the community, the Commission and its Local Landmark committee are working on possible public signage for a central section of the Great Western Trail. While still in development, as many as four signs could be created for spots on the trail at Park Ave, Main, Charlotte and Grace streets.

Respectfully submitted,

Lyn Myers

Lombard Historic Preservation Commission Chairperson