

# The Preservationist

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The Member Newsletter of the Elkhart Lake Historic Race Circuits Preservation Society

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## **Update on the Preparation of the Preservation and Maintenance Plan for the Historic Race Circuits**

On February 5<sup>th</sup> a status meeting was held between representatives of Heritage Research, Ltd. and the Wisconsin Historical Society. The purpose of the meeting was to report on progress and obtain guidance on how to proceed in the development of the Preservation and Maintenance Plan for the Historic Race Circuits. Since being retained, Heritage had focused on searching for a preservation and maintenance plan that could be used as a model but were unable to find a plan specific to historic public roads. Heritage had also begun to gather the views of affected parties, looking for middle ground from which an acceptable maintenance plan could be drawn.

At the meeting, Heritage was advised that they were not required to negotiate with the parties to produce a plan acceptable to all or to attempt to define exactly what roadwork could or could not be performed. They were advised to concentrate on producing a comprehensive overview document describing and documenting the salient and significant features of the Historic Race Circuits against which plans for future roadwork on or related to the Historic Circuits could be measured for adverse effect. While the plan may well define certain basic maintenance that can be performed without review such as the mowing of shoulder and filling of potholes, the Wisconsin Historical Society anticipates that any project outside of basic maintenance will be submitted to them in accordance with Wisconsin historic preservation statutes. Any negotiation regarding effect and mitigation will take place at the time of submission.

What the Preservation and Maintenance Plan will ultimately look like and when it will finally be completed is unclear. Heritage originally thought that a draft would be available by December 2008. Given the clarification of what the maintenance plan should contain, as well as the need to include photographs in the documentation, they now estimate at least eight more weeks and perhaps longer.

Until now it had been our expectation that the plan would contain comprehensive provisions defining what comprised “adverse effect” on the Historic Circuits. It is clear now that outside of basic maintenance, the Wisconsin Historical Society wants to decide that on a project by project basis. While it is hoped that there will never again be a project that has not been reviewed in advance by the Historical Society, projects must be submitted to them for that to occur. It the role of the Preservation Society as stewards of the Historic Race Circuits, to keep lines of communication open and to insure that parties considering projects affecting the Historic Circuits proceed in accordance with the historic preservation statutes.

## **Preservation Resolution Proposed to Village Board**

The Preservation Society presented a proposed draft of a Village Board Resolution to the Elkhart Lake Board of Trustees at the October 20<sup>th</sup> board meeting. The resolution formally recognizes the Elkhart Lake Road Race Circuits as an important resource to the Village and pledges the Village to follow Wisconsin historic preservation statutes when considering projects that will affect the historic circuits. The Board felt that the matter required further study and tabled the resolution for future consideration.

## **2009 Membership Renewal Invitation**

Founding Members will soon be receiving an invitation to renew their memberships in the Society for 2009. We sincerely appreciate your support in 2008 but we need to continue to build our organization to even greater numbers in 2009. The effort to protect and preserve the Historic Circuits is far from over as you can tell from the accompanying article. In fact, it has only just begun. You will be able to renew your membership anytime between now and the Spring Dinner Social scheduled for Thursday evening, May 16<sup>th</sup> concurrent with the SVRA vintage racing weekend at Road America.