

The Preservationist

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

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Preservation and Maintenance Plan Currently at a Standstill

There has been little or no progress on the drafting of a Preservation and Maintenance Plan for the Historic Circuits. As previously reported, Heritage Research, Inc. contracted to draft the plan, was unable to find any precedent for a preservation plan involving a historic property consisting primarily of public roads. Heritage requested guidelines from the Wisconsin Historical Society and were provided with a Preservation and Maintenance Plan for a public building. Heritage feels that the plan for a building is not applicable to a property consisting of public roads but has been unable to get further guidance from the Historical Society.

The Preservation Society obtained and reviewed a copy of the plan for the public building provided by the Historical Society and agrees that the adapting the plan to the Historic Circuits would be very difficult. The Historical Society has been unresponsive to requests for further guideline.

Preservation Society Directors feel that the current situation is unacceptable and that Heritage should move forward with drafting a Preservation and Maintenance Plan without further input from the Historical Society. The Directors have developed an outline for a simple plan that they can support and submitted it to Heritage. Plans are currently underway to meet with representatives of Heritage in an attempt to move the process forward.

Elkhart Lake Village Board Rejects Proposed Preservation Resolution

Society Director, Mark Pfaller attended that March Elkhart Lake Village Board meeting and requested that the Board reconsider the proposed Village Board Resolution supporting preservation of the Historic Circuits within the Village limits. The resolution had been tabled at the October 2008 Village Board meeting.

He was advised that the Village Attorney had reviewed the proposed resolution and concluded that the existing Village historic preservation ordinance was entirely adequate and our request for reconsideration was denied.

The Preservations Society's concern stems from the fact that the current ordinance allows the Village Board to approve changes affecting portions of the Historic Circuits without reference to the additional requirement to comply with State and Federal historic preservation statutes.

Our current plan to resolve the issue is to draft an amendment to the Village ordinance acknowledging State and Federal preservation statutes and to work with Village officials for its adoption.

Spring Dinner Social Program Features Historic Chaparral I

The Preservation Society held its Spring Dinner Social on Thursday, May 14th at Road America concurrent with the SVRA Spring vintage race weekend. Sixty-three members enjoyed comradeship around a cash bar and a delicious buffet dinner provided by Millhome Supper Club. The program featured a presentation covering the history of the Chaparral I (on display at the entrance to the meeting room) currently owned by Tom Hollfelder and previously campaigned by Augie Pabst. Augie was present and everyone enjoyed listening to him help Tom "get the history straight". Seven new members joined the Society at the meeting and a good time was shared by all. (See web site for more details.)

The next Society Dinner Social is scheduled for Thursday July 16th concurrent with the KIC vintage race weekend in the main dining room at Siebkens (located at the Hard Left). Cocktails at 6:30, Dinner at 7pm, Program features film, photos and recollections of four now old guys who were actually there.