



HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION for Wash. Co. & City of Weiser

Wednesday, October 8th, 2025

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Washington County Court House Commissioner's
Chambers in Weiser, Idaho

County HP Commissioners: Tony Edmondson, Dennis Lance, Brenda Aldrich, Thel Pearson, Alan Pickett

City HP Commissioners: Tony Edmondson, Dennis Lance, Lynda Lance, **Josh Dalton (absent)**, Cheri Clausen

Members of the public in attendance: Margie Chipman (City Council Representative) Nina Hawkins Brandie Lincoln-
Cambridge Museum (zoom) Julie Chandler. Secretary (zoom)

The meeting was called to order by Tony. He had our guest, Brandie Lincoln from Cambridge introduce herself. She shared that she is working with the Cambridge Museum and working with the ladies that have faithfully kept it healthy for over 40 years. They are trying to get new members interested in joining the team.

Minutes: September 3rd, 2025, meeting minutes were presented for approval. Dennis moved to approve, and Brenda moved to second. Motion carried.

Report Items:

Weiser Middle School gymnasium National Register application status/ City of Weiser Grant match: Sarah, an out of state contractor has now been signed to do the work on our National Register Application. We'd been waiting for SHPO to confirm that they have received the funding. Sarah is scheduled to visit Weiser on November 13th to do the groundwork and photography of the Weiser Middle School Gymnasium. Kyla Dickerson will be on hand to allow access to the building. Jeri Kleppin from the Museum will be there as well. The grant is for \$8,000.00. Typically, WAPC has covered the grant cost until reimbursement at the conclusion of the grant cycle, but this time, the City of Weiser has agreed to pay the contractor directly and then they'll be reimbursed in 2 years when the grant is completed.

Midvale Representative Report: Alan attended the September Midvale City Council meeting and let them know that he is a member of WAPC. He did get onto the ICRIS site and could not find anything on the Church of Christ. He plans to get ahold of Pastor Kevin Hooper to see if there are any photos available. In checking on the history of the water tower, it is believed to have been built in the 1940's. It sits empty now. The citizens of Midvale don't want to see it torn down even though it is probably a hazard as it exists now. Midvale is presently having water problems. They are needing to drill a new well. The grain elevator is under new ownership. It is partially caved in from the 2017 big snow storm. Alan plans to follow up on the new owners and their plans. The swimming pool is also of historical interest. It is now over 50 years old.

Cambridge Representative Report: Thel shared that the next Cambridge Historic Preservation commission meeting is tomorrow. Brandie discussed developing a City of Cambridge Historic Preservation Plan for the city. She asked Tony if he would be willing to review it for them once they get a draft put together.

Brandi further shared that Jared Odoms, at the Commission Meeting, told them that the Cambridge Museum had received the whole \$80,000.00 from the Dixie Creek Bridge Mitigation. That information was inaccurate. It was actually a \$60,000.00, with \$20,000.00 funding the City of Weiser HPP.

Cove Bridge Mitigation funding update: Our Mitigation for the Cove Bridge was:

- \$30,000.00 – Washington County Historic Preservation Plan
- \$20,000.00 – 100 Reconnaissance Surveys (but only 27 were completed)
- \$10,000.00 – interpretive sign for Cove Bridge

Several weeks ago, Alexis from SHPO and Ashley Malloy reached out. They would like to invest the remainder of the money left over from the Reconnaissance Site Surveys not completed to do a National Register Application. A discussion followed as to which structure we wanted to present for National Register Status. The Jefferies School, the Saling School, and the Grain elevator in Midvale were suggested. Both HPC's chose to support the Jefferies School for the project. The Shamrock Club has done a big renovation job. Most of the work is on the inside. Unless there is something inside that makes it ineligible. Tony will reach out to the club members to explain what and why we plan to do.

Unity Bridge Mitigation Status: This project is moving forward. The LILB (Leading Idaho Local Bridge) formula all goes into a bank and we must apply for grants to use it. There was a recent meeting at the bridge site with Tim Wrightman, Dave Bean and Karissa Nelson from LHTAC, Jared Odoms, and a gentleman from Emmet who is interested in the rest of the bridge.

We have been made aware of some concerns Tim Wrightman has expressed to others about the Mitigation funding formula decision. He is pretty disgruntled. Tony asked Julie to share a conversation she had with a member of the Weiser River Trail Group. Tim had approached them that WAPC had cheated him out of his mitigation money and he asked that WRT fund his project. Julie explained to the WRT member that WAPC had simply chosen to accept the newly offered 70/20/10 split of money that will allow us to apply for any mitigation money from around the state. Tim also has the same opportunity to apply for grant money from this new plan.

Alan asked if Tim Wrightman was the owner of the Lazy Bear Ranch? He had received a call from him asking about the section of bridge he had received. Alan shared that he had received no mitigation funding at all for his section of bridge.

Thel shared that she had been approached by several folks asking about why money was going to a private property owner for use on his private property. They wanted to know who they could call to ask questions about the disbursement of funding.

Lynda stated that he would just need to apply for the funding, so why is he so disgruntled? Tony said that the idea behind it is to save the bridge. Tim would need to sign an easement allowing public access.

When a transportation project is proposed which could result in a "Section 106 findings of adverse effect", LHTAC, ITD or the local road district, and SHPO start a review process in Boise long before we are notified or come into the mitigation discussions. It all comes down to timing. We assume Tim must need the money to prep his site for the bridge. Under ILIB, he can't apply until January 2026 for the grant and then the money is not made available until the end of the project. Cheri added that she thought mitigation agreements were negotiated with entities and not individuals. Dennis asked if under the old plan is the money available up front? Could that be the reason Tim is unhappy? Tony said he's reached out to Tim by text and email to discuss his concerns, but has not received a response.

Tony explained that when we were invited into the conversation on the Cove Bridge mitigation, we wanted to put the money into the Dixie Creek bridge deck. ITD/LHTAC surveyed it and wouldn't fund it unless the wing wall was repaired. They learned that it would be up to \$300,000.00 to be repaired so the deck project was rejected in favor of the funding the settlement discussed earlier in our meeting. About twenty years ago when ITD replaced a culvert under Highway 95 south of town, we received a \$10,000.00 mitigation settlement to restore the stained-glass window in the Pythian castle. Generally, we are not invited into the mitigation conversation until well after the project plans have been set. Brenda said that it seemed to her that it comes down to public vs private. If Tim's moving it onto private property, he'll likely have a cost share.

CEG for Eaton Depot interpretive sign status: The Community Enhancement Grant awarded to WAPC for creating an interpretive sign at the Eaton Depot is getting underway. The TAG ladies along with an architectural historian colleague will be here on October 20th to start research on the sign for Eaton Depot. Anyone who wants to attend that meeting is welcome to join.

Idaho Heritage Trust grant cycle – People's Furniture siding removal report: Tony shared that removing the metal siding from People's Furniture came from a discussion during a walk-a-round tour a year ago when Dan from SHPO was here looking into the

eligibility for a downtown NR Historic District. Dan felt that removing the siding from the buildings would greatly enhance the eligibility prospects for a district and suggested we apply for a CLG grant or other funding source to initiate a preliminary assessment of the building condition and cost for removal. Early in September, Tony received a notice that the Idaho Heritage Trust annual grant cycle was coming up which might cover a siding removal analysis. He arranged for IHT and SHPO representatives to meet with building owners Sally and Matt Frye on September 19th to tour and assess the building as well as discuss developing a removal plan. Cheri, Dave, and Tony joined them as they poked out the second-floor windows to determine how the siding was attached and what damage may have occurred to the original exterior fabric. Cheri added that IHT Architect historian Steve Trout was particularly optimistic by the findings. It seems the siding was attached so the metal wasn't laying right on the original materials. It appears any damage caused by the installation was limited. The ground floor store now occupies what were originally two separate buildings. The southerly building was originally built as the Haas Hardware store and later became the Merc. The northern building was originally the Wheaton Theater. In the 1930's, the third floor was removed following a fire. The metal "slipcover" we now want to remove, was installed over both buildings in the 1960's, giving the appearance of one large building. Some of the siding has been updated in the last 20+ years. That was when they exposed the HAAS and 1909 date space on the south side of the building. After exploring, they met and talked about the next steps. Two options were discussed. Either start with a small section or just remove the whole thing. It was decided Sally would contact her contractor and ask that he give them a bid for a temporary partial removal of the siding to allow for a more detailed inspection. Based on those findings, a cost and plan for total removal could be developed which could be implemented at a later date.

ICRIS update: Alan shared that he did get on the ICRIS site and copied some of what they have. A whole lot of information was available and was pretty interesting to read. He then shared some of his own research about how Alexander Ross, a fur trader, came up the Columbia and eventually onto the Weiser River. That expedition came about 1811 and later returned to this area in 1844. They actually camped on the Picket property.

Tony added that years ago Lorraine Carr shared that the property she and Tommy owned up on top of Midvale Hill had lots of native American artifacts and evidence of occupation throughout the area.

Walker House/Werneth Building: Dennis was able to get ahold of Brad Janicek who currently leases the Werneth building from Seth Matthews. It was a good conversation, and Brad seemed sensitive to protecting the historic fabric of the building. He and Dennis plan to follow up. Tony tried to follow up with Jon Walker. We don't want to let it get away from us, or we'll lose track and it'll be gone. He wonders if we approached Jon and asked if he'd donate the building or accept \$5 to 10,000.00 to buy and move the building. Then someone could renovate and save the structure.

Weiser Historic Preservation Plan/City Council approval updates: Tony shared that the City of Weiser Historic Preservation Plan is ready to be brought before the City Council for their approval at their meeting on the 14th.

Other: Overview of the Bridge Mitigation Results-

Cove Bridge: total mitigation \$60,000.00

\$30,000.00 Washington County HPP - \$20,000.00 for reconnaissance Site surveys - \$10,000.00 Info sign for Cove Bridge

Dixie Creek Bridge : Total Mitigation \$80,000.00

\$60,000.00 new roof on Cambridge Museum \$20,000.00 City of Weiser HPP

Unity Bridge: Total Mitigation: \$105,000.00 to be banked in the ILIB Grant Plan

Meeting Adjourned about 5:20 p.m.

Next meeting: **Wednesday**, November 5th, 2025, 4:00 p.m. at the Washington County Court House. Watch your emails for the meeting reminder.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Chandler, Secretary

