



**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE HISTORIC
PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

October 21st, 2026 – 7:00 PM

Village Hall – 400 Park Avenue – River Forest, IL 60305
First Floor Community Room

AGENDA

Public comments sent in advance of [the meeting](#) are shared with the Commission. You may submit your written public comments via email in advance of the meeting to: lmabella@vrf.us. This meeting will take place **in the First Floor Community Room** at Village Hall.

You may listen to the meeting via Zoom conference call as follows: **Zoom Conference Call: Dial-in number: 312-626-6799 with meeting ID: 854 5693 2628. Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85456932628>**

The agenda is as follows:

- I. Call to Order
- II. Public Comment
- III. Approval of Meeting Minutes – July 23rd, 2026
- IV. Review of Applications for the 2026 Historic Preservation Awards
- V. Discussion Regarding Protection and Promotion of River Forest Architecture and History
- VI. Other Business
- VII. Adjournment

ADA Compliance: Any individual with a disability requesting a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in a public meeting should contact the Village at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting in person at Village Hall by telephone at 708.366.8500 or by email: lmabella@vrf.us. Every effort will be made to allow for meeting participation.

VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes
July 23rd, 2026

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Historic Preservation Commission was held on July 23rd, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room of Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue – River Forest, IL.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Chair Franek, Commissioners Saeger, Graham-White, Muhr, Forehand, and Schutzenhofer

Absent: None

Also Present: Matt Walsh, Village Administrator, Luke Masella (virtual), Deputy Clerk

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – June 25th, 2026

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Saeger and SECONDED by Commissioner Forehand to approve the meeting minutes for June 25th, 2026.

AYES: Chair Franek, Commissioners Saeger, Graham-White, Forehand, Muhr, and Schutzenhofer

NAYS: None

Motion Passes.

4. REVIEW OF APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS FOR RECOMMENDATION – 559 FRANKLIN – EXTERIOR REMODELS

The applicant's architect, David Crosby, presented the application to the Commission and responded to questions from members.

Commissioner Forehand expressed support for the project and suggested considering the addition of a railing to the front porch.

Mr. Crosby explained the factors behind the decision not to include a railing.

Chair Franek congratulated the applicant on the proposed work and commended the quality of the application.

Commissioner Saeger expressed excitement about the return of the turret addition and look forward to seeing the completed home.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Schutzenhofer and SECONDED by Commissioner Saeger to approve the application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for 559 Franklin.

AYES: Chair Franek, Commissioners Saeger, Graham-White, Forehand, Muhr, and Schutzenhofer

NAYS: None

Motion Passes.

5. DISCUSSION REGARDING PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF RIVER FOREST ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORY

Board and staff discussed the recent changes to the Village's historic preservation code.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Franek highlighted a recent phone call from an individual interested in historic preservation matters in the community.

Chair Franek announced that he is stepping down as Chair but will remain on the Commission as a member. He noted that he had asked Village President Adduci to appoint Commissioner Forehand as the new Chair.

Commission members thanked Chair Franek for his extensive service and contributions to the Commission.

Administrator Walsh fielded questions from the Commission regarding the status of the online survey.

Chair Franek provided an explanation of how the Significant Properties survey was created.

Chair Franek thanked Deputy Clerk Luke Masella for his work with the Commission.

Deputy Clerk Luke Masella thanked Chair Franek for his work.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn by Commissioner Muhr, Seconded by Commissioner Forehand.

AYES: Chair Franek, Commissioners Saeger, Graham-White, Forehand, Muhr, and Schutzenhofer

NAYS: None

Motion Passes. Meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm.

Luke Masella, Deputy Clerk

Date: _____



2026 River Forest Historic Preservation Awards Nomination Form

The River Forest Historic Preservation Commission supports and encourages homeowners, builders and other professionals who help preserve the historic character of our Village. Accordingly, the Commission has established a program of awards intended to recognize outstanding achievement and support historic preservation. **All awards are limited to the exterior of structures; interior improvements or renovations are not eligible.**

Nominations must be received at Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue, Attention: HPC Awards, or via email to lmaseila@vrf.us on or before October 2nd, 2026.

Applications will be reviewed and awards will be announced at an upcoming Commission meeting. Awards are not guaranteed to be given every year. Multiple awards may be given in a year.

Awards

Laurel McMahon Restoration Award

The Restoration Award is presented by the Historic Preservation Commission in recognition of an outstanding achievement (completed since January 1, 2017) in returning the exterior of a structure to its original design and condition by repairing or replacing the original architectural detail and materials. The Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation shall serve as a guide for the Commission.

Streetscape Compatibility Award

The Streetscape Compatibility Award is presented by the Historic Preservation Commission in recognition of an outstanding achievement (completed since January 1, 2017) in building a new structure (or addition) in an architectural style and scale that is compatible with its surrounding historic streetscape.

Adaptive Reuse Award

The Adaptive Reuse Award is presented by the Historic Preservation Commission in recognition of an outstanding achievement (completed since January 1, 2017) in altering a structure's use to meet contemporary needs in a manner that retains the structure's viability while respecting its original architectural character and design.

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Architectural Details Award

The Architectural Details Award is presented by the Historic Preservation Commission in recognition of an outstanding achievement (completed since January 1, 2017) in restoring an exterior detail element of the structure. Examples of exterior detail elements would include porches, brackets, architectural trim and stained/leaded glass. The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation shall serve as a guide for the Commission.

Renovation Award

The Renovation Award is presented by the Historic Preservation Commission in recognition of a historically sensitive renovation or addition to a structure (completed since January 1, 2017) in the Village that enables continued and/or expanding use.

Jeanette Fields Award of Merit

The Award of Merit is presented by the Historic Preservation Commission in recognition of an outstanding exterior-related achievement (completed since January 1, 2017) which is outside the scope of the other awards.

This form may be completed and submitted by the property owner or by any third party interested in nominating a property for an award.

Any questions, please contact Luke Masella, at lmasella@vrf.us or 708-714-3526

**PROPERTY INFORMATION**

Address of Property

PROPERTY OWNER INFORMATION

Name of Owner

Mailing Address

Secondary Telephone Number

Email Address

Form Prepared by

CONSTRUCTION INFORMATION

Date of Original Construction

Architect

Builder

Original Owner

NOMINATED WORK

Architect/Designer

Builder/Contractor

Description of Work

Please attach any Before/After Photographs (to be retained by Commission.)

Signature

Date

Elias V. Day House
Tallmadge and Watson, 1907



View of 1907 Elias V. Day house from back yard



Existing garage from the 1940s



Design of replacement garage



View of new garage from back yard



View of garage from alley with historic house in background



View of new garage from alley