

“Save the Wall” steering committee is formed for Englishton Park Wall

Written by Marty Randall

Tuesday, 01 March 2011 00:00 - Last Updated Tuesday, 01 March 2011 13:13

On Wednesday, February 23, the steering committee for the newly formed “Save the Wall” effort met and continued to organize mobilization activities to preserve more than 200 feet of the historic stone wall in front of Englishton Park in Lexington.

This stone wall is in imminent danger of being removed during a bridge-replacement project designed by Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT). The plan to remove the treasured wall shocked the community of Lexington and the local preservation community since the original description of the project stated specifically that the road would be “shifted slightly to the east in order to avoid disturbance of a potentially historically important stone wall on the west side of the roadway. “Community members report atht they were completely unaware that INDOT had changed its plans in any way, uch less to include removal of the wall. The steering committee noted that it appeared that because INDOT proceeded in planning this changed project without informing or including the local stakeholders, they may be operating out of compliance with both federal regulations and their own state Public Involvement policies which mandate “early and continuing opportunities during project development for the public to be involved in the identification of social, economic, and environmental impacts...” Title 23, Code of Federal Regulations.).

The Save the Wall effort has involved many folks making lots of contacts with INDOT officials and state and federal officeholders to ask for assistance to have this project redesigned in such a way that would preserve the integrity of the wall. Janet Payne with Scott County Preservation Alliance and Laura Renwick at the Southern Region of Indiana Landmarks have also been very supportive and helpful in advocating for preservation of the wall.

If others want to express their concerns, they can contact the INDOT Commissioner, Michael B. Cline, at 1-317-232-5533 or email: indot@indot.in.gov or Gov. Mitch Daniels at 317-232-4567; email www.ingov/gov/2631.htm and fill out email form. Concerned citizens can also sign a “Save the Wall” petition, located at the Scott County Community Foundation office (60 N. Main in Scottsburg) or the Scott County Heritage Center and Museum 1050 South Main Street in Scottsburg.

For more information or to offer other kinds of support, call Kristi Rowell at 1-812-592-1937 or email: Kristi.ron.rowell@gmail.com.

There will also be a Save the Wall meeting in Lexington from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 3, on the Lexington square. For more details contact L.L. Lowry.

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