



# STURGEON BAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER - February 2020 - First Edition

## Welcome to the First Edition of the Sturgeon Bay Historical Society Newsletter

The charter of the Sturgeon Bay Historical Society is to focus on preserving the past and ensuring the future of the historic elements of Sturgeon Bay. There are so many things happening this year that we are kicking off an email newsletter to keep everyone informed on the progress. We aim to delight you with news once a quarter. If you don't want to hear from us, we understand – just click the unsubscribe button at the end of the email.

### A Word from our President: Christie Weber

#### Community Values

Historic preservation of our most unique structures is like a billboard to the world, reflecting our shared community values and celebrating our unique sense of place. It defines what is important to us, where we came from, what keeps us here now, and where we may be going in the future. And, most especially, it shows that WE CARE. It makes us a proud and special place, providing so much more than just the minimum needs of a functioning community.

I strongly believe that how a community cares for its past directly reflects how it will care for its people now and in the future. This is particularly true when it comes to environment and economics.

Environment: NO structure is more "green" than an older building in its second or third life cycle. It was likely built with little to no chemical additives, used no electricity for its production, and its old growth, slower-burning wood provides a safer structure in case of a fire.

If an old commercial building is repaired, versus being torn down and replaced, on average:

- A community sees more local jobs created
- Less garbage goes into our landfills
- Use of resources such as electricity, water, gas, etc... is minimized
- Fewer chemicals from today's building materials are introduced into the environment

Economic development: Most people prefer to visit, live in and work in a community that provides a sense of place and to which they feel a deep connection. Why would we ever risk becoming yet another "Anywhere, USA" by removing our most unique characteristics? Over the last 20 years, Sturgeon Bay's Comprehensive Plan community surveys consistently show that citizens overwhelmingly support protecting our small town character and charm as an important community value. We've made big strides in 2020 and our city government is beginning to understand how embracing our history positively impacts home sales, population growth, employment and community spirit. As always, the Sturgeon Bay Historical Society will continue to promote the protection of our past while moving us into a proud future.



