

January 30, 2025

Dear Pipestone City Councilmembers:

The Heritage Preservation Commission [HPC] was established by the Pipestone City Council in 1978. We have been tasked, among other things, to make recommendations to the City Council in the area of historic preservation.

As Pipestone's Heritage Preservation Commission, we strongly support the historic preservation of Pipestone's unique buildings, especially those constructed of Sioux quartzite, a material unique to our region. The Carnegie Library building has been recognized on the National Register of Historic Places since 1980. The National Register of Historic Places is an official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation. As a Sioux quartzite building, of which construction was fully funded by the Carnegie Foundation, it is one of the special buildings which maintains the historic fabric of this community and is worthy of preservation.

The community of Pipestone first moved to preserve the Carnegie Library building in 1977. At that time the City of Pipestone determined to remodel the building into use as a Senior Center. Today, the City of Pipestone has the opportunity to invest in the future of this building and the future of the community.

Pipestone has unfortunately lost several of its historic buildings and should be determined to hang onto the remaining Sioux quartzite structures. They are unique to the region and have become part of the character of this community.

The HPC advises the Pipestone City Council to renew their commitment to maintain the historical integrity of this community through the maintenance and historic preservation of the Carnegie Library Building.

Sincerely,
Heritage Preservation Commission

Susan Hostkins
John W. McCallum
Erwin B. Schiller
Gumby Pruitt
Shannon K. Muller