

WINNESHIEK COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Steven Johnson, Chairperson
David Stanley, Co-Secretary
Julia Wall, Co-Secretary
Elizabeth Lorentzen, Treasurer

Roger Bergan
Dennis Karlsbrotten
Cathy McClain
LaVonne Sharp
Dean Thompson

Minutes of the Winneshiek County Historic Preservation Commission Feb. 11, 2012, 8:30 A.M. at the Vesterheim Gathering Center

Members present: Steve Johnson, Roger Bergan, David Stanley, Dean Thompson, Elizabeth Lorentzen, Dennis Karlsbrotten, Lavonne Sharp, Julia Wall, Cathy McClain

Steve opened the meeting at 8:30. He welcomed the guests, especially Duane Fensterman.

Visitors present: Kevin Lee, Paul Hexom, Lonnie Pierce, Janelle Pavlovec, Deb Bishop, Midge Kjome, Lavonne Bjergum

David moved, Dean seconded to approve the minutes; motion approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report - Elizabeth

Check from Vesterheim for Vera Harris books.

Paid Lloyd Bolz for the Caretaker's House report

Lavonne moved, Roger seconded to approve the report, approved unanimously

New Business

Duane Fensterman spoke about the Clayton County Schools project which included 22 townships; one binder for each township was produced; a general history of the county schools is in the front of each binder

The project involves people from all over the county

Duane showed a photo of the memorial plaque; this is a 1st in Iowa and possibly in the nation where schools have been memorialized

Myra Voss – executive secretary - has been in charge of this project; her basement of her real estate office is the repository for most of the material; ownership of the material is the Genealogy Society

Archeological research on sites have not been done

Old business

David Stanley summarized the Caretaker's House Report

Eligibility Review – it was checked that it was considered individually eligible but with a disclaimer that additional research may be needed

Criteria A

Location – maintains integrity

Design – does not maintain integrity

Setting – in farmland context but not related to county farm; setting compromised

Materials – has little integrity

Workmanship – only 11.8% of buildings/structures left; common, mass production, catalog order plans

Feeling –no longer feels like a poor farm; does not maintain integrity

Association – with modern care of the infirm and elderly

Research of the home after 1940 is still needed and we might consider this

There is no record of abuse in Winn. Co. at the County Home

Veterans of war did not live here; no blacks or immigrants who had not lived in the county 3 years lived here

Dean made a motion that the commission endorse and approve the recommendations in the draft findings of the report; Motion to approve this draft by Dean, seconded by Roger; motion approved.

CLG annual report is due at the end of February; David is not done with this yet, but will have it ready in a few days and will send to commission by email. To be included in that - 3/21/11 the Calmar Depot was placed on the National Register.

School project

David handed out a binder on the Highland Schools and discussed it.

Midge Kjome stated that the Highland #2 moved to Hesper. Dennis said he went to school at both #1 and #2 and remembers where the privy was located on those sites.

#3 has interesting soil samples; Dave wants to research this more.

#4 and #5 have a lot of research potential; #4 is no longer there. Dennis grew up next to the site.

A possibility to nominate the Highland schools as a district to the National Register

David wants to do archeological research as soon as possible as soon as frost out of the ground; should take about 5 days.

Property owners will need to be contacted prior to the research.

Midge Kjome spoke from Genealogy – she has been collecting materials on the schools; several books in the last 10 years about county history have been published which have information about the schools

Roger showed a book of Howard County Schools which we could look at to help formulate this project.

Kevin Lee presented a cd of photos of rural schools to Dean.

Next meeting March 10th.

Motion to adjourn by Roger; seconded by David; approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10 a.m.