

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 January 14, 2012, 8:30 A.M. at the Vesterheim Gathering Center

Members present: Steve Johnson, Roger Bergan, David Stanley, Dean Thompson, Elizabeth Lorentzen, Dennis, Lavonne Sharp, Julia Wall
Visitors present: Kevin Lee, Ferneva Bricacomb, Janelle Pavlovec, Paul Hexom, Susan Jacobsen, Deb Bishop, Lonnie Pierce
Steve extended a welcome to Dennis and LaVonne

Roger moved, Elizabeth seconded to approve the minutes; motion approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report - Elizabeth

Vera books continue to sell.

David and Lori Stanley donated a gift restricted for Highlandville School; Elizabeth will get more specifics from David.

Disbursements include \$60.69 payments for Dec. 16 ad and one November ad for publications for sale with good returns.

\$6500 was put into money market account.

We received \$93.13 interest for the year at Farmers Merchant.

We also received \$199 interest on CD.

Dean moved, LaVonne seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report; motion approved unanimously.

Old business

Caretaker's House report was handed out to look over before the next meeting when we need to decide if we want to sponsor this report.

Lloyd needs to submit an invoice.

Dean thanked David and his archeological business for the work on this project.

New Business

Dean gave a power point and led a discussion of rural school houses.

Dean has vast experience of surveys in multi-million dollar projects

He believes we need to answer the central questions of: what do you want to learn, when do you need results and what can you afford.

Dean's Phases of the project might include: identify needs, prepare objectives, assign teams, determine scope and content of data, communicate, pilot the study (Highlandville?), implement and monitor, analyze and assess, share results and archive

Possible products/ services of the project include: a tour guide, new book, articles,

education modules for schools, workshops, assistance to owners, grants
What is needed to move forth: money, people, technology, support of stakeholders, and collaboration.

Assignments for February might include: share and read documents; describe needs, goals and outcomes, products, identify competing interests or authorities, circulate findings.

A thematic nomination to the National Register was suggested by Steve.

Steve gave background on his schoolhouse reports: one set in Des Moines, the county collection was broken up into individual township files.

Until 1985 the archives were at Luther, then went to storage in Freeport, and then moved to the old jail.

Kevin Lee asked who the point person is for the research

Steve believes that the Winneshiek County archives should be the main repository for info; David agrees with this but says the key is how to organize the info.

Steve said the key to success of this project is collaboration

Roger Bergan stated that the raw materials from Steve's research are all together.

Elizabeth spoke with Duane Fensterman who has school studies from Clayton County and she would like him to come speak and show us next time.

Janice Meyer sent a picture of the Bakke school from the 1950's.

Paul Hexom of the Locust school committee spoke; he had a handout of the Locust school project's purpose, format, scope of information; he wants to collaborate

Deb Bishop suggested that Elizabeth talk with students from Luther involved with film festival for interest in filming this school project

Steve said that the Iowa State Standard inventory was used in the 1985-86 study.

Ferneva spoke about the material in the archives - Lavonne and Roger can bring info to and from the Winn. Co. Historical Society.

David stated that 2 perspectives could be used: start today and work backwards or start in 1800's and move forward.

Steve said we should start with the Highland Township

6 schools were originally located in Highland twp., but only 1 now exists

Dean said by next meeting a search should be made for materials that exist

Kevin suggested that township directors may be of help

For the next meeting we will have some findings from Highland township; Roger offered to help Dean and Dennis do this.

Susan Jacobsen stated that Arlene Seim is the sole surviving Locust school teacher and should be interviewed.

Steve said the standard questions from SHIPO should be used.

David suggested that we focus on Highland Schools.

Lavonne will work with Genealogy on the Highland school.

Roger said that materials can be stored in the preservation archives.

Someone from Decorah Geology Association should be invited to next meeting.

Next meeting will be Feb. 11, 2012

Motion to adjourn by LaVonne, seconded by Elizabeth; approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30