

WINNESHIEK COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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

Roger Bergan
Janelle Pavlovec
Cathy McLain
LaVonne Sharp
Lonnie Pierce

Minutes of the Winneshiek County Historic Preservation Commission January 12, 2013, 8:30 A.M. at the Vesterheim Amdal-Odland Heritage Center.

Present: Dave Stanley, Roger Bergan, Dennis Karlsbrotten, Elizabeth Lorentzen, LaVonne Sharp, Lonnie Pierce, Janelle Pavlovec, Cathy McClain, Dennis Karlsbrotten (liaison with the Board of Supervisors).

Steve opened the meeting with a review of the November meeting's minutes. LaVonne moved to approve the minutes, Elizabeth seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously although Janelle abstained from voting since she was not a member of the Commission in November of 2012.

The treasurer's report was presented by Elizabeth. She mentioned that the number of Vera Harris books still available was now less than 200. Lonnie moved to approve and Cathy seconded. The treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

Dave discussed Shay Gooder's report on Winneshiek County Rural Schools and passed around a hardcopy of the GIS inventory. That copy, along with a DVD, will be archived with the Commission's records at the Old Winneshiek County Jail. Dave also presented a book prepared by the Minnesota Historical Society on the topic of rural schools. He suggested the Commission publish something similar for the Winneshiek County rural schools. Elizabeth thought that would be very doable.

Dave then discussed the CLG grant which was not funded by the State Historical Society of Iowa. He thought the Commission should consider re-working it into the Historic Resource Development Program (HRDP) grant format and submit it. The deadline for submittal would be in May. LaVonne offered to look into this program and see just what was involved.

The discussion turned to the second printing of the Vera Harris book. Elizabeth indicated that she has been working on the original manuscript to clear up previous typos and historic information that was not entirely accurate.

The next topic addressed was the Highlandville School nomination. Dave pointed out that the State Historical Society will be reviewing National Register

nominations on February 8th but he was not sure if the Highlandville School nomination would be complete by then, particularly the maps and illustrations due to the backlog of projects at Bear Creek. He also noted the lack of historic photos of the 1911 school. Janelle said she may be able to come up with some photos.

Steve then brought up the North Building indicating that it appeared that the Board of Supervisors will be voting on its demolition on Monday January 14th. Dennis discussed the tour of the building taken by the Board of Supervisors and other interested parties. He also noted the need to re-roof the structure as well as other needs. Lonnie questioned the need for demolition at this time. At that point Kevin Lee asked to present some information to the Commission regarding the recent asbestos abatement at the North Building. Kevin distributed some pictures and the Commission as a whole was surprised by the extent of damage, especially to the window sills.

A general discussion took place on the topic and Dave suggested the Commission hold a public hearing regarding the North Building. Although the Board of Supervisors had two public hearings both were held in the late morning on a Monday. This is a very difficult time of day for those individuals who have jobs to attend.

Dave, Elizabeth, Janelle, and Steve indicated they would attend the Board of Supervisors' meeting and request they hold off on voting until the Commission held a public hearing on the North Building. Dave wondered if the Board would be willing to provide a cost benefit analysis that would justify demolition and if that could be ready in time to pass out at the public hearing.

Steve said he have received a letter of resignation from Julia. Julia has taken a new job and that combined with family obligations has made it difficult to attend Commission meetings.

Lonnie mentioned that the Gilliece Bridge has been sold to a golf course in Osage, Iowa.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 A.M. with the next meeting scheduled for February 9th.