

**Minutes of the Winneshiek County  
Historic Preservation Commission  
Meeting  
March 8, 2008  
8:30 P.M.  
Vesterhiem**

**Present:** Dave Stanley, Roger Bergan, Kevin Lee, Steve Johnson, Elizabeth Lorentzen, Art Koffron, Ferneva Bremicomb.

Steve brought the meeting to order and introduced the Commission's newest member, Art Koffron. Steve noted Art's past experiences including his background with the Linn County Historical Society.

Dave distributed copies of the minutes from the February meeting. Kevin moved that the minutes be approved. Roger seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Elizabeth presented the treasurer's report which had little change from the previous meeting. Elizabeth then explained to Art about the Audrey Malkan gift and how we would be using a portion of it to publish the Vera Harris manuscript. She also outlined the status of the Vera Harris manuscript to date and how we were using the separate publication fund.

Dave moved to approve the treasurer's report and Ferneva seconded the motion which was passed unanimously.

Steve presented the letter he had sent to Luther Anderson, a member of the Calmar City Council. The letter noted that the Commission was in support of the restoration of the old Calmar Train Depot and its potential use as a museum, tourist information center, and a trail head.

Steve then brought up the National Register workshop that the Commission would be sponsoring along with the Decorah Historic Preservation Commission. The workshop will be held at the Amdal-Odland Heritage Center on Water Street. The date is May 9<sup>th</sup> and the workshop will run from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. Steve, Art, Ferneva, Roger and Kevin all indicated that they would for sure attend the workshop. Elizabeth said she might be able to attend. Dave suggested that go ahead and register and if she could not make it that he would go.

At that point Steve indicated that Steve Klimish had tendered his resignation from the Commission. This was largely because he travels frequently and is very active with the Spillville Heritage group. As a result he was rarely able to attend Commission meetings.

The discussion then turned to the issues involving the Freeport Hilltop Cemetery. Dave suggested that instead of doing an intensive Phase I Survey we might want to consider doing a Phase IA Survey. The latter essentially consists of a detailed background review and historic document search and possibly a brief reconnaissance of the cemetery if possible. Dave thought that this would provide a considerable amount of information without having to confront the property owner. It would also be less costly. Steve felt that we should go ahead and send out the Request for Proposals for the intensive survey and see what the responses were. If the cost was more than what is available then we could consider the Phase IA survey. Kevin noted that since we did not receive the grant the circumstances have changed. He thought that we should contact the Freeport Cemetery Association and discuss it with them first since they were providing \$1,000 towards to the overall cost of the intensive survey. The rest of the Commission agreed and Kevin said that he would approach the topic at the next meeting of the Freeport Cemetery Association. That meeting will be April 9<sup>th</sup> prior to the April 11<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting. Dave moved to proceed with this approach, Roger seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Steve indicated that on March 26<sup>th</sup> from 3:15 to 4:15 Senator Charles Grassley would be holding a townhall meeting at the Amdal -Odland Heritage Center. Vesterhiem had received a small grant from the Silos and Smokestacks' organization the Senator would be participating in the grant award.

Steve also noted that Vesterhiem would be receiving a HRDP grant from the State Historical Society to help restore a rental property the museum owned. Originally this property was going to be turned into green space when it was discovered that the structure, located at 109 North Mill Street, was the first frame house to have been erected in Decorah. It was built in 1853 by Phillip Morse who was part owner of the mill. The Morse family was the third family, after the Days (1<sup>st</sup>) and the Grays (2<sup>nd</sup>) to settle in Decorah.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 A.M. Next meeting is scheduled for April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008.