

WINNESHIEK COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

**Steven Johnson, Chairperson
David Stanley, Secretary
Elizabeth Lorentzen, Treasurer**

**Commissioners: Kevin Lee
Ferneva Brimacomb
Roger Bergan
Rob Shadwick
Art Koffron**

**Minutes of the Winneshiek County
Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting
November 8, 2008
8:30 P.M.
Old County Jail**

Present: Dave Stanley, Kevin Lee, Rob Shadwick, Roger Bergan, Ferneva Brimacomb.

Guests: Birgitte Christianson, Lyle Otte, Gregg Narbor of the Decorah Historic Preservation Commission.

Dave welcomed the guests from the Decorah Historic Preservation Commission who attended this meeting to discuss the 1930s era bathhouse at the public swimming pool.

Dave passed around the minutes from the October meeting. Rob moved to approve the minutes and Roger seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously.

Kevin briefly discussed the Bridge Barn near Spring Grove which is being dismantled. Known as the Kroshus Barn is was given to Vesterheim in the 1970s. Birgitte and Kevin presented some background on the mid-19th-Century structure which had received some tornado damage.

Dave explained our publications fund to our guests and the Vera Harris manuscript Elizabeth has been working on.

Dave also brought up the letter he had prepared for Carol Lensing in order to access the Freeport Hilltop Cemetery. Kevin was concerned the address was not correct. Dave indicated he would check on it. A discussion followed concerning whether or not to send the letter certified, registered, or possibly UPS with signature required. There was some concern that this approach might irritate the property owner. There was also some concern that no one would be home when the letter was delivered. It was decided that the letter should just go

regular mail and Dave would follow up with a phone call. Ferneva moved to send the letter as is after checking on the address. Rob seconded the motion.

The topic turned to the bathhouse which would be destroyed if the proposed Aqua Center is built. Lyle outlined the issues and noted the historic significance of the structure which was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s.

Gregg, who has authored a book on the WPA discussed the bath house and noted that it is the only remaining structure of this type in Iowa. The ones constructed in Fort Dodge and Dubuque have been torn down.

Dave brought up the possibility of doing a multi-property National Register nomination for all of the 1930s CCC or WPA structures and other features in Decorah. He also discussed applying for a CLG through the State Historical Society.

Lyle pointed that the Decorah Historic Preservation Commission has not yet been certified but expect to be soon.

Rob wondered it was possible that the bath house could be incorporated into the Aqua Center design. A general discussion followed focusing on the fact that the funding for the Aqua Center has yet to be secured. Of particular note is that a bond would have to be approved County wide and given the current economic situation it is unlikely that the Aqua Center would be funded any time soon.

Both Gregg and Lyle wondered if the supporters of the Aqua Center were aware of the historic significance of the bath house. There was a general consensus that they should be alerted to the situation.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM. The next meeting was not scheduled.