

**Minutes of the Winneshiek County
Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting
April 14, 2007
8:30 A.M.
Old Winneshiek County Jail**

Present

Kevin Lee, Dave Stanley, Steve Johnson, Elizabeth Lorentzen, Ferneva Bremicomb, Roger Bergan.

Steve initiated a conversation about whether or not the commission should establish a minimum attendance for yearly meetings, possibly 50%. The general consensus was that this maybe necessary to insure input from all commission members on a wide range of issues. This topic was shelved for the time being in order to allow commission members to ponder it some more.

Kevin brought the latest development regarding the Spillville Mill. Local efforts are being made to rehabilitate the structure. Dave noted that the dam, or what remains of it, will likely be removed as part of a bridge replacement project. The dam would certainly be considered as a contributing element of the overall property but it is a serious hindrance to the overall flow of the river especially during floods. The dam catches large debris that creates some serious problems. Kevin noted that the original mill turbines maybe still present and buried by sediment in the Mill basement. These turbines were designed and usually were underwater. Although a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places has been submitted it is rumored that it was not accepted and returned for modifications. Dave indicated that the Mill is clearly eligible for the National Register but the process of actually placing it on the register can be very difficult.

Elizabeth presented the treasurer's report. She wondered if the money taken from the Malkin gift for publishing the Self-Guided Historic Tour of Decorah should be replaced, although this particular publication falls under the general guidelines for use of the gift. The original gift was for \$35,000 of which \$30,108.04 remains. A certificate of deposit was purchased with \$20,000 and the remainder is in the commission checking account. The latter will be used to cover the final costs for publishing the Vera Harris manuscript. This cost should not exceed \$10,000. The \$20,000 cd is coming due in April. Dave moved that the commission allow Elizabeth to seek the cd best rate. Roger seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. There was no decision regarding the use of a portion of the Malkin gift to publish the Self-Guided Historic Tour of Decorah.

Kevin brought up that the Winneshiek County Engineers' Office is offering for free the historic Turkey River Bridge. If someone took up this offer they would be responsible for moving it. The County Engineer estimates the cost of moving it would be approximately \$90,000. It is unlikely that anyone or any organization would pursue this. Dave noted

that if that is the case the next step would be to do a comprehensive documentation and historic overview of the structure.

Dave brought up the status of pursuing CLG grant funds for an archeological survey of the Freeport Cemetery. He indicated that as of the date of this meeting the new 2007 application forms have not yet been posted online. The Freeport Cemetery has not been registered with the state as an archeological site and Dave is not clear on what the precise legal locations are. These are necessary for developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) that would be attached to the CLG application form. Another issue is who exactly owns the property. Kevin said he would look into the ownership issue and Dave said he would bring a USGS topographic map to the next meeting so Kevin could locate the site.

Kevin requested some help with expenses for attending a historic restoration training session at the Campbell Center in Mount Carroll, Illinois. The tuition is \$750 for four days of training plus expenses. The course Kevin will be taking is titled Maintenance Preservation and Historic Structure Reports. Elizabeth moved to provide \$100 to help with this cost. Steve seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 A.M.
Next meeting on May 12th.