

**Minutes of the Winneshiek County  
Historic Preservation Commission  
Meeting  
August 25, 2007  
8:30 P.M.  
Vesterhiem**

**Present:** Roger Bergman, Dave Stanley, Steve Johnson, Elizabeth Lorentzen, Kevin Lee, Rob Shadwick.

Dave presented the grant information. Steve said he will get us on the agenda for the Board of Supervisor's meeting at 11:15 Monday (August 27<sup>th</sup>) to discuss the grant application and seek their approval. Steve, Dave, Roger, Kevin, and Elizabeth indicated they could be there.

Kevin provided letters of support and pledges of \$2,000 from the Freeport Cemetery Association and \$1,000 from the Pioneer Cemetery Commission. This money will be used as cash match for the grant to survey the Freeport Hillside Cemetery.

Elizabeth presented the treasurer's report noting that she has separated out our allotment from the Board of Supervisors. This was done to clearly outline the publication fund, the allotment, and the funding for the Vera Harris manuscript. A general discussion took place on where the commission's \$2,000 contribution for the grant would come from. We re-examined the original proposal presented to the Supervisors and noted that \$2,000 was originally requested to publish a historic calendar and/or do publication on historic bridges in Winneshiek County. Unfortunately neither of these projects got off the ground primarily because the commission has been focusing on other issues. We were also concerned that the calendar, unlike the other publications, would have a limited shelf life. Elizabeth suggested we use that money for the cash match associated with the grant. The commission agreed.

Elizabeth then brought up the status of the Vera Harris manuscript. She noted that so much information has been coming in from a variety of sources including numerous old photographs of some of the structures and people discussed by Vera. The manuscript is quickly turning into an ethnohistory punctuated with historic research. Elizabeth said once people hear about the manuscript more and more local information surfaces.

Rob brought up the cemetery walk and wondered if any of the individuals mentioned in Vera's manuscript were buried in town. Elizabeth was not sure. Rob explained how local actors would dress in period costumes and play the part of various historic figures that are buried there.

Elizabeth mentioned that the group responsible for fundraising and maintenance of the Terrace Hill Mansion (the Governor's residence) will be in Decorah to visit

five historic homes in Decorah. This will occur on September 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. The Terrace Hill group will have their monthly meeting and luncheon at the old opera house.

Kevin noted that he has been attending the Decorah Historic Preservation Commission's meetings. They have been working on a \$ 100,000 grant from the State Historical Society for mothballing the East Side School if the lease agreement is passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 A.M. Next meeting is scheduled for September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007