

Winneshiek County Historic Preservation Commission
September 12, 2020

The Winneshiek County Historic Preservation Commission (WCHPC) met at the Winneshiek County Historical Society's Bodensteiner House with the following members present: Roger Bergan, Ferneva Brimacomb, Ashley Christensen, Kim Glock, Steve Johnson, Elizabeth Lorentzen, Janelle Pavolvec, LaVonne Sharp and David Wadsworth. Guests present: Steve Kelsay, Decorah Historic Preservation Commission.

Steve Johnson shared with the WCHPC the recent Stone Structure Progress report from Shay Gooder.

Guest Steve Kelsay, representing the Decorah Historic Preservation Commission (DHPC), visited with the WCHPC about the City of Decorah's design criteria for historic districts. The topic of murals in and around historic districts was discussed in detail. Kelsay encouraged the WCHPC to stay involved with similar discussions around the county and invited the WCHPC to get involved with efforts for the City of Decorah; it was noted that the WCHPC's jurisdiction is only within unincorporated districts. Discussion took place on how to keep communication open between the WCHPC and DHPC; it was decided to shared meeting agendas starting in October.

Ashley Christensen was introduced as the newest member of the WCHPC. She will complete John Hall's remaining term.

Minutes of the July 11, 2020 were read. Sharp moved and Brimacomb seconded to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Lorentzen. Glock moved and Sharp seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

The Commission Secretary position was discussed. Sharp moved and Glock seconded to approve Ashley Christensen as Commission Secretary. Motion carried.

John Beard, Winneshiek County Board of Supervisors' Representative, was not present to provide a report.

Johnson provided an update on the Stone Structure Survey. There are a 122 total structures, with some in very non-extant condition. In reality, the survey will encompass about 110 structures. The process of surveying landowners has been delayed by COVID-19; the publication will now be ready in early spring. Johnson will email out the stone structure excel sheet list.

Johnson and Glock provided an update on the Al Becker Project. Johnson and Glock have had a couple of meetings with Becker. A list of ten questions has been created for interviewing Becker about his work involving students and the Fort Atkinson State Preserve site. The interview will take place in the near future, though the recorder has not yet been located. Glock moved and seconded by Bergan to present Becker with a certificate of appreciation for his work done in Winneshiek County. Motion carried.

Wadsworth gave an update the Old Hospital/Smith Building. Wadsworth was been in contact with an individual willing to provide services this fall. Johnson mentioned he had contact Kristen at the State; no money is available currently to assist, but the WCHPC is on the waiting list. Lorentzen mentioned that she will contact the Winneshiek County Board of Supervisors to confirm that the County is okay with the WCHPC moving forward on upkeep options for the building. Wadsworth and Lorentzen will work together on next steps for this project.

Lorentzen gave an update on the Dam Gate Interpretive Sign. Installation of the concrete pad will occur late October. Decorah Park and Rec and the DNR want to wait for the ground to be completely frozen before moving the structure; it will be installed in the spring. Fossil Industries is ready to print once the file is received. Discussion for a future sign for Bow String Bridge took place; the price tag would be \$1,800-\$2,000.

Johnson announced that the HRDP award was received. Johnson also mentioned his research on a rust inhibitor to apply to the structure. He is working with a preservationist. Walmart sells the number one rated brand. Johnson plans to meet with the Walmart manager in the near future and discuss donation options. Johnson also mentioned that he will be presenting and making a grant request to the Depot Outlet in October.

Wadsworth discussed the Wykoff Historic Jail. He has talked with a representative from the City of Wykoff. The City takes all income and puts it back into the property. This example has sparked conversation on the reuse of old buildings and if this could be a potential model for Winneshiek County. Wadsworth will keep the WCHPC informed on how the conversation unfolds.

A group discussion took place on off-site meetings. Johnson suggested meeting at Trout Run Park in October.

Date of next meeting will be October 10th at Trout Run Park at 8:30am. The Annex Building will be the back-up location in case of poor weather.

Move by Glock to adjourn, seconded by Brimacomb. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Christensen, Secretary.