

Winneshiek County Historic Preservation Commission
May 8, 2021

The Winneshiek County Historic Preservation Commission (WCHPC) met at the Winneshiek County Courthouse Annex with the following members present: John Beard, Roger Bergan, Ferneva Brimacomb, Ashley Christensen, Kim Glock, Steve Johnson, Elizabeth Lorentzen and LaVonne Sharp.

Minutes of the April 10, 2021 meeting were read. Sharp moved and Brimacomb seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Lorentzen. An ending balance of \$10,820.57 was reported for all funds. An ending balance of \$1,857.82 was reported for General Operating Funds less restricted funds. Glock moved and Bergan seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

John Beard, Winneshiek County Board of Supervisors' Representative, provided an update on the courthouse. A Rural Revitalization Grant of \$125,000 was received for waterproofing of the tower. The copper dome will eventually need to be replaced; Beard mentioned a potential opportunity to collaborate with WCHPC on a fundraiser for this project. Beard also suggested touring the courthouse work during an upcoming WCHPC meeting.

Under Old Business, Beard and Johnson provided an update on the Smith Building and Rebecca Conard. Areas with the worst deterioration will be tuck-pointed by a local contractor. It has been suggested to replace trees as needed with Burr Oaks. Lorentzen mentioned it might be possible for her daughter to assess the current age of trees. Lorentzen also mentioned that an article has been submitted to the paper. Johnson noted that Rebecca Conard does seem interested in writing the National Register form and plans to get back in touch with WCPHC in the near future.

Johnson and Christensen provided an update on the Tainter Dam Gate Dedication—10:30am on Friday, June 4th at Trout Run Park. A draft of the dedication program and a photo of the gate being placed on the cement pad were passed around for viewing. The gate will be power washed and sprayed with the rust inhibitor soon. The price of the rust inhibitor from Walmart has drastically increased, but Johnson located a more reasonably priced product at Sherwin Williams. The tax-exempt form needs to be approved through the Sherwin Williams headquarters located out of state, which may slow the process down; Johnson and Bergan are willing to cover the cost of tax if need be. Johnson will be delivering the sign to Park and Rec for installation. Park and Rec will be installing a fence around the gate for safety.

Johnson provided an update on the Distribution of Guide Booklets to County Libraries. Pavlovec volunteered during the last meeting to deliver the booklets. Pavlovec was not present to report back to the commission, and Pavlovec did not respond to Johnson's request for an update.

Johnson provided an update on the Status of the Walmart Application. The Decorah Walmart Manager said the money will be coming, but there have been some issues with the grant system.

Under New Business, Johnson provided an update on the grant funds committed and in the process for the Survey of Mill Sites in Winneshiek County. \$6,450 has been received to support the mill survey. It was suggested to utilize a photograph from Sharp for the cover.

Christensen shared that the WCCF Final Report was submitted for the Stone Structures project.

Group discussion took place on the Bear Creek Archeology Proposal on Mills of \$3,995. Discussion took place on wording within the proposal relating to indirect cost fees. Johnson will confirm with Bear Creek that no indirect fees will be charged. Lorentzen moved and Glock seconded to accept the Bear Creek Archaeology Proposal on Mills not to exceed \$3,995 in total costs. All voted in favor.

Glock provided an update on Meeting with Clair Blong at St. Lucas. Glock and Johnson recently traveled to St. Lucas to discuss collaborating on a seminar for Fort Atkinson with Blong, who is with the German American Museum. Blong spearheaded the Native American conference held in St. Lucas. Blong was receptive to the Fort Atkinson idea.

Group discussion to Re-schedule for Fall Workshop at Fort Atkinson then took place. Glock and Johnson said program details were not discussed in detail during the meeting with Blong, but a date of late September/early October was brought up. Ideas for the program include featuring Kathy Gourley and recognizing Al Becker.

Sharp and Johnson reported that they will be working on the Iowa Site Inventory Form for the Wiest Mill this coming week. The owner is not interested in the National Register, but he is okay with moving forward with the State form.

Date of next meeting will be June 12th at 8:30 am at the Annex Building.

Moved by Sharp to adjourn, seconded by Glock. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Christensen, Secretary.