

Winneshiek County Historic Preservation Commission

August 14, 2021

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

A new discussion item was brought up by Johnson. He informed the commission that the Board of Supervisors is searching for a new home for a large courthouse desk that was previously housed in the Decorah Public Library. Upon further discussion, WCHPC determined it has no possible options for the desk at the present time. If any options surface, commission members will contact the Board of Supervisors directly.

Minutes of the June 12, 2021 meeting were read. Sharp moved and Glock seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Lorentzen. An ending balance of \$1,807.82 was reported for General Operating Funds less restricted funds. Bergan moved and Sharp seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Beard reported on the Winneshiek County Board of Supervisors. Work on the courthouse is ongoing; improvements will result in a more water-tight envelope of the building. Beard suggested a tour of the improvements during an upcoming WCHPC meeting.

Under Old Business, Johnson and Christensen gave an update on the Smith Building Nomination. Christensen has submitted a draft of the CLG grant application for costs associated with the National Register nomination. 60% of costs would be covered by the grant, with the remaining 40% to be covered by the Board of Supervisors. If the grant is not funded, WCHPC will work to raise the funds locally. Lorentzen mentioned that she will reach out to the newspaper again about running a publication on the Smith Building.

Johnson provided an update on the Mill Research Project. Two RSVP volunteers are helping go through digital newspaper articles searching for information. Johnson was excited to report that a new mill was discovered during this research. A hard copy of the research will be stored at the WCHPC office, and electronic copies will be shared with Bear Creek Archaeology and uploaded to the WCHPC webpage.

Pavlovec provided an update on the Distribution of Guide Booklets to County Libraries. She noted that this assignment fell on the back burner for her and was unable to get it done in a timely fashion. Johnson noted his disappointment in the lack of communication for the assignment and lapse of time in getting the assignment completed and reminded the group to not hesitate to ask for help if help is ever needed to complete an assignment. Bergan volunteered to take over the assignment.

Johnson provided an update on Publications. The Stone Structures book is selling well at Dragonfly Books. The Chamber and Winneshiek County Historical Society are on 6-month contract and will pay for books sold at the end of 6 months. Johnson will touch base with both entities in September.

Under New Business, Johnson noted that Paula Moore with the State left her position earlier this summer. Her position has not yet been filled to his knowledge. This may explain why the State is taking longer than normal with responses.

Christensen reported on Final Reports for Arlin Falck Foundation and HRDP. Final reports were submitted for the grants earlier this summer. We are still waiting on the final HRDP reimbursement to come through, but Lorentzen has been in contact with the State.

Johnson reported on the Wiest Mill Update and Field Services Consultant. He has been in contact with Kristen Vander Molen, and Vander Molen approved the use of Rebecca Conard's services for the Iowa State Inventory Form for Wiest Mill.

Johnson reported on the MiEnergy Application for the Wiest Mill. He submitted an application to cover Rebecca Conard's expenses to complete the Iowa State Inventory Form and is awaiting to hear if funding will be awarded.

Johnson reported on Rescheduling the Fall Workshop at Fort Atkinson/St. Lucas. The possible schedule would be a tour of the Fort by Kathy Gourley, Friends of Fort Atkinson and the DNR in the morning followed by lunch and programming at the German American Museum in St. Lucas in the afternoon. Upon further group discussion, it was decided to wait until spring due to COVID-19 numbers and lack of proper planning time. Johnson will reach out to Clair Blong of the German American Museum in St. Lucas with the update.

Johnson encouraged the WCHPC to fill out the brief State Fair drawing on behalf of Friends of Fort Atkinson, which was a request from Kathy Gourley. The email Johnson forwarded from Kathy Gourley has further details.

Date of next meeting will tentatively be FRIDAY, September 10th in the afternoon at the Courthouse for a tour of the improvements and slideshow by Tony from the Auditors Office.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Christensen, Secretary.