

Winneshiek County Historic Preservation Commission
November 13, 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, Ashley Christensen, Kim Glock, Steve Johnson, Janelle Pavlovec and LaVonne Sharp.

Minutes of the October 9, 2021 meeting were read. Sharp moved and Glock seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

There was no Treasurer's Report since Lorentzen was not present; she will follow-up with a report once she arrives back to town. Johnson checked with the bank, and the income account will be sitting very comfortably at about \$13,835. \$276 was deposited from Chamber booklet sales. We are anticipated income of \$78 from WCHS booklet sales, \$2154 for the 2nd HRDP payment, along with \$2,600 from the Board of Supervisors. No action taken.

Beard reported on the Winneshiek County Board of Supervisors. Work on the courthouse is ongoing. They hope to finish all repairs to the terra cotta columns soon; these repairs are intended to fix the water issues. The next project will be the copper roofing on the dome, which will be very expensive.

Under Old Business, Johnson gave an update on the Wiest Mill ISIF. The ISIF form was sent in by Rebecca Conard, and we are now waiting on the Letter of Eligibility. It is still unsure if the owner would be supportive of a National Registry nomination.

Glock provided an update on the 1874 Winneshiek County Wall Plat Map. Chip Peterson, local photographer, donated his skill to photograph the map; photographs are now on the WCHPC website. The map is in the process of being framed by Perfect Edge; this is taking longer than planned due to the unique size of the map and because the main contact at Perfect Edge is out of the office. Once framed, we will do a photo and press release of the project.

Johnson provided an update on the Dismantling of the Court Desk/Table on behalf of Wadsworth. Wadsworth was hired to dismantle the table. It is being temporarily stored in the Smith Building. The Board of Supervisors are brainstorming the best possible place to store or use it long-term.

Johnson provided an update on the Visit to Green's Sugar Bush (Fred Green). Johnson, along with Ted Wilson and RSVP volunteer Ellen Modersohn, made a visit to Green's Sugar Bush, a family operation for eight generations. Photos of the visit were emailed out to the Commission. Johnson is suggesting the idea of featuring their story on IPTV to the family.

Under New Business, Johnson discussed the Deadline for Member Activities—Annual CLG Report. Johnson requested that 2021 member activities be sent to Johnson and/or Christensen by December 1, 2021.

Johnson discussed the Potential Rural School Booklet. In 2012, the Commission completed a survey of rural schools, but a booklet and self-guiding tour were never published. Because most of the research was completed back in 2012, this should not be a huge undertaking. In addition to the survey information, Johnson also has schoolteacher interview documentation from 1986 and Decorah Newspaper school features from 1931 that can be included. Johnson has been in contact with Shay Gooder of Bear Creak Archaeology about the idea. Johnson has volunteered his time to work on raising the funds necessary for the project.

Johnson discussed the 2023 State Rural School Conference. The state is considering Decorah as their location for the 2023 State Rural School Conference. Johnson said it would be great timing to have the Rural School Booklet completed and be able to promote it to conference attendees.

Johnson reported on the News Release of the Mill Survey Project. The news release will be featured on decorahnews.com and in the Decorah Newspaper, the Calmar Courier and also the Cresco Times. The plan is to continue to do short features on the various mills to garner public interest in the project.

Johnson also mentioned that we will find out in December if we were awarded the CLG grant for the Smith Building Nomination project.

Date of next meeting will be January 8th at 8:30 at the Winneshiek County Courthouse Annex. There will be no meeting in December.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Christensen, Secretary.