

Clayton County Historic Preservation Commission

February 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes

The CCHPC February 11th meeting was held at 9:00 am at the Clayton County Development Office in Elkader, Iowa. Meeting attendees were: Roger Thomas, Ellen Collins, John Nikolai, Kathy Koether, Chris Schoen, Lee Lenth (via phone), and Brandie Backes (via phone). No guests were present.

Kathy Koether made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Ellen Collins seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

John Nikolai made a motion to approve the January 2022 meeting minutes. Brandie Backes seconded. Motion Passed unanimously.

Current budget was reviewed. The CCHPC is given an annual budget of \$2050.00. The current balance is \$923.95 (47.05%). No new expenditures were brought forward for review or approval.

Roger Thomas reminded everyone that the annual Preserve Iowa conference sponsored by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) of Iowa is to be held in Mason City, Iowa June 2 to 4, 2022. All commission members were encouraged to attend some or all of the programs offered. Attendees can submit receipts for registration and travel expenses to the CCHPC for reimbursement.

John Nikolai announced that Alan Johnson agreed to submit an application to the Iowa SHPO and the National Park Service to get his stone barn at Rock Crest Farm listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Iowa State Historian, Laura Sadowsky agreed that it was eligible for National Register listing. Mr. Johnson has agreed to get the roof repaired. John is contacting roofing contractors for bids for that work. John intends to ask Kristen Vander Mol at SHPO whether Decra metal shingles that resemble cedar shakes can be used rather than actual cedar shakes. Ellen Collins suggested that a newspaper article be submitted that this preservation is being done, if Mr. Johnson approves.

Roger Thomas thanked Brandie Backes for sending him photographs she had taken of the clear cutting done along the alignment for the Cardinal Hickory Powerline Project near Millville. Roger sent these photos to Dan Higginbottom (SHPO Archaeologist) and the Rural Utilities Commission. Roger noted that bank stabilization was needed at stream/river crossings where vegetation had been removed. Complaints have been made that the ITC is still doing construction despite a work stop order. Roger noted that the work stop order only applied to the Wisconsin portion of the project. Higginbottom suggested to Roger that the CCHPC send a letter of concern to the Inspector General in Iowa regarding the project.

Jenna Pollock, director of the Clayton County Conservation Board (CCCB), sent a note to Roger Thomas that the United States Corps of Engineers (USACE) is planning to dredge Pool 11 and is looking for places to deposit approximately 100,000 cubic yards of dredge spoils (Letter dated February 4, 2022). They have asked for comment regarding potential environmental (including cultural) resource issues for any proposed spoil pile placement. Roger sent an email to the USACE on February 7, 2022 requesting that the CCHPC be included in any correspondence regarding the project. Bethany Hoster, USACE, responded to Roger on February 8th, stating that the CCHPC would be added to the distribution list for future correspondence and meetings. She also noted that the USACE was investigating potential cultural resources in the area to guide locations of spoilage placement alternatives.

Ellen Collins asked whether Roger had spoken with the Clayton County Board of Supervisors regarding getting the state to erect signage along Iowa Highway 13 that would direct travelers to visit the scenic and historic Mederville Bridge. Roger said that he had talked to Ray Peterson about it.

Roger Thomas said that he had spoken to Annie Palas about the Stone Wall Farm. Palas said that she was doing some things there. It was suggested by Ellen that Palas contact Rebecca Conrad to prepare a National Register nomination.

Chris Schoen reported that the St. Mary's Alumni Association in Guttenberg has withdrawn its application to demolish the historic brick convent building that contributes to the St. Mary's Catholic Church historic district. Chris said that the Guttenberg Historic Preservation Commission plans to meet with the Alumni to help them apply for grants for restoration and repairs.

Chris Schoen also reported that he is providing guidance to the City of Guttenberg regarding planned cultural resource investigations associated with proposed new water and sewer lines. He is coordinating with SHPO and the University of Iowa, who are the cultural resource contactors for the project. Archaeological field work is planned for this spring or summer.

Kathy Koether reported that the floors in the Giard United Methodist Church had been redone. The church board is meeting with an historic architect on February 16 regarding whether it is feasible to construct bathrooms upstairs. Kathy said that they had found the title for the land north of the church. She said that they would like to get a historical marker for Basil Giard, who was the founder of that community. Ellen suggested that the Froelich Museum may have records about Basil Giard.

Roger Thomas reviewed the current design for the pull-up banner and rack cards for the proposed Clayton County Museum Trail. The rack cards will feature a county map at the top and the museum location information below. After some discussion, it was decided to go with the orange, purple, and white color design as it drew the eye better than the green and white or navy and white designs.

Volunteers will be needed to man the Clayton County booth at the Iowa State Fair on August 12 and 19.

At 10:10, Ellen Collins made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lee Lenth seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2022 at the Clayton County Development Office, Elkader.

Revised Minutes submitted by Chris Schoen, Secretary, February 18, 2022.