

# CLAYTON COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

## Meeting Minutes for March 8, 2024

The March 8, 2024 meeting of members of the Clayton County Historic Preservation Commission (CCHPC) was held at the Clayton County Development Office in Elkader, Iowa between 9:00 and 10:00 am. Attending on site were Deputy Chair Brandie Backes, Secretary Chris Schoen, Ellen Collins, Kathy Koether and Bob Meyer. Guest Jennifer Rose joined at 9:30 to 9:50 am.

A motion was made to approve the agenda by Collins and seconded by Koether. The motion was passed unanimously. Minutes from the February 9, 2024 meeting were reviewed. Meyer made a motion to approve the minutes and Schoen seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

The current balance for the 2023-2024 fiscal year beginning in July is \$1745.60.

## OLD BUSINESS

Chris Schoen reviewed the current status of the Cardinal-Hickory Transmission Line Project. A slightly revised mitigation treatment plan for monitoring construction of transmission line structures in the area of the Turkey River South Bluff Archaeological District (TRSBAD), located near Millville, was distributed to the regulating agencies and consulting parties on February 23<sup>rd</sup> after the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) stipulated that that agency should be contacted if any unanticipated discoveries occurred during construction. Schoen also noted that a notice in the Guttenberg Press reported that copies of the Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) and the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) were currently available at the Guttenberg Public Library for review by the public.

Brandie Backes commented that KWWL recently published online a story that the National Wildlife Federation, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, and the Driftless Area Land Conservancy were suing Dairyland Electric and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service regarding exchange of refuge land to build on the Wisconsin side of the Cardinal-Hickory Transmission Line Project.

Ellen Collins reported that the rededication celebration for the Keystone Bridge is scheduled for May 7, 2024 at 3 pm. Invitations to attend are being extended to the Governor, the Secretary of Transportation, and state representatives. Iowa Public Television has not responded to repeated attempts by Mallory Marlatt Hanson to propose that they do a segment about the bridge renovations and rededication.

Collins reported that she had spoken with Craig Woods at the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) regarding placing a sign of Highway 13 directing visitors to the historic Mederville Bridge. Mr. Woods said that he would see that the sign was constructed and put up.

Collins said that she had gone to the Pleasant Grove Cemetery to look at the signs placed by the graves of important individuals buried there. The plan is to place similar signs at the graves of three founders of Elkader. Bob Meyer said that the signs at the Pleasant Grove Cemetery are only there in the summer as they were not durable. Collins showed a photograph of a simple 6 by 6-inch brass sign with the name of the individual as an idea. Meyer suggested a sign that had the face of the individual would be more impactful. Collins will continue to pursue this project.

Collins reported that she had been told that the grave of a veteran of the Revolutionary War was at the Goshen Cemetery located on Pumpkin Ridge Road.

Collins also showed a photograph of a two-story stone house in Elk Township that might not be on the CCHPC Stone Structure website.

Meyer reported that he and his brother have been removing silt from over a massive limestone wall and stairs structure on his property west of Giard that was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) to create a dam across a drainage. He said that there are names scribed in the wall. Schoen had done some preliminary online investigation and found that a CCC camp had been at McGregor, Iowa between 1933 and 1935. The workers there were building various structures in the area and probably were the ones that built the impoundment structure.

Collins reported that nominations were being sought for the Iowa Barn Preservation Awards. Schoen proposed that the 1920's 14-sided "round" barn being restored by Cathie Krausmann at the Clear View Farm might be nominated.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Schoen noted that the CCHPC usually asked the Clayton County Board of Supervisors to recognize May as Historic Preservation Month. The CCHPC Board agreed to do this again. Activities being done by the CCHPC might be reported in the newspapers. The CCHPC's consultation in the Cardinal-Hickory Transmission Line Project, the planned grave signs, and a kiosk regarding the history of Floral Hall were suggested as topics of the article.

Backes reported that Roger Thomas had reviewed proposals for two communications towers in Clayton County. One is an antenna to be placed on the water tower in Guttenberg. The other is the proposed Clayton County Safety and Emergency Communications tower at the edge of a farm field on Eagle Drive.

Jennifer Rose, Clayton County Mentoring Coordinator, from Helping Services for Youth & Families reported that this agency had recently received a grant to expand the program, which brings together youth, ages 6 to 17, with mentors. They were looking for mentors in Clayton County who could commit at least 4 hour each month to interact with local youth one-on-one and in group events. Interactions might occur on school grounds or elsewhere in the county. There would be some reimbursement for milage and other minor expenses. Goals of the mentoring program include reduction in substance abuse and providing a positive role model. There would be background searches and fingerprinting of mentor candidates as well as training.

There were no committee reports or other open comments.

The next scheduled meeting will be April 12, 2024 at 9:00 am at the Motor Mill Historic Site, located south of Elkader, Iowa.

Koether made a motion to adjourn at 10:00. Meyer seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted March 11, 2024

Chris Schoen, Secretary