

CLAYTON COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes for September 13, 2024

The September 13, 2024 meeting of members of the Clayton County Historic Preservation Commission (CCHPC) was held at the George Meier Rural Heritage Museum in Elkader, Clayton County, Iowa between 9:00 and 10:15 am. Attending on site were Chair Roger Thomas, Secretary Chris Schoen, Ellen Collins, Kathy Koether, Bob Meyer and Rita Dudley. Deputy Chair Brandie Backes was absent. There were no guests.

A motion was made to approve the agenda by Collins and seconded by Dudley. The motion was passed unanimously. Minutes from the June 14, 2024 meeting were reviewed. Dudley made a motion to approve the minutes and Collins seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

The current balance for the 2024-2025 fiscal year beginning in July is \$2050.00.

OLD BUSINESS

Ellen Collins reported on her investigation for costs to place signs up at the graves of the three founders of Elkader (John Thompson, Timothy Davis, and Chester Sage). Brass plaques would be expensive, probably about \$1,000 each. Bob Meyer said that the signs put up for the founders of McGregor, which include a photograph, were only paper inside a clear acrylic sleeve. They were temporary/seasonal rather than permanent. Rita Dudley suggested something etched on a headstone or perhaps a larger stone monument that included information about all three founders. Chris Schoen suggested that such a monument could be set at the edge of the cemetery near the entrance. Roger Thomas suggested perhaps some other durable synthetic material for signage.

Dudley inquired whether there were descendants of the founders living in the area that might be contacted. Schoen stated that to his knowledge, there was no known image of John S. Thompson (a search has been made for one as Thompson was a founder of the Motor Mill) and that his daughter, Anita (“Nettie”) Thompson Clift, had moved out of state in the early 1900s.

Dudley reported that she had spoken with Nikki Schroeder at Elkport about a museum exhibit for the Garber-Elkport communities. She said that David Beck offered a kiosk with large panels that could be used to present information. This could be the first of several revolving exhibits about the various small communities (past and present) in Clayton County. Thomas said that there was space available at the Heritage Museum for such exhibits.

Thomas stated that the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nomination for the German Methodist Episcopal Church in Giard was submitted to the Clayton County Board of Supervisors for review and approval. It was nominated under Criterion A: “associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history”. The application was completed by Jan Olive Full of Tallgrass -Full, LLC, Iowa City, Iowa.

Thomas asked for a motion to acknowledge and agree as to “whether the nominated property meets the National Register of Historic Places criteria for significance and integrity”. Dudley so moved. Collins seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Each commissioner present voted “aye” and the motion

was unanimously approved. Thomas completed a form for the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) of Iowa indicating the Commission's acknowledgement and approval for the NRHP nomination for the German Methodist Episcopal Church.

Kathy Koether stated that the Giard community plans to put up a monument to Basil Giard across the road from the German Methodist Episcopal Church.

NEW BUSINESS

Thomas reported that the Heritage Museum was planning to have a historic flag restored. The flag was "home-made" and features 13 stripes and 13 stars. It is believed to have been fashioned in 1876 to commemorate the centennial anniversary of the founding of the United States. Meyer suggested that the flag may have been flown at Moody's School or perhaps the Swede Ridge School, both west of McGregor. Thomas will search the newspaper archives to look for information about the flag.

The next scheduled meeting will be October 11, 2024 at 9:00 am at the Economic Development Office in Elkader, Iowa.

Meyer made a motion to adjourn at 10:15. Koether seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted September 23, 2024

Chris Schoen, Secretary