

**Muscatine County Historical Preservation Commission**

**OFFICIAL MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at noon**

**Virtual Meeting**

**12:00 PM - 1:30 PM (CDT)**

**Please join meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.**

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/594169453>

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Access Code: 594-169-453

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**Explanation of reason for virtual meeting: Social Distancing due to Covid 19 restrictions**

1. Call to order Monthly meeting Muscatine County Historic Commission – June 2020 at noon.

Commissioners present Bill Koellner, Lisa Wertzbaugher, Jane Daufeldt, Lynn Pruitt, Mary Beveridge, Jamie Boston, Beckey Allgood, Terry Eagle. Lynn Ochiltree was not present on the call.

Guests: Sandy Stevens.

2. Order of Business
  - a. Review May 13, 2020 meeting minutes (Daufeldt) Moved to approve as submitted 1st. Boston and 2nd. Beveridge. Approved, with no Nays.
  - b. Treasurer Report (Allgood) Same as last month- no change in financial position.
  - c. Meeting reviews by members since last meeting other than covered below
    - i. Report on the State Historic Preservation Office of Iowa's Preservation Iowa Summit- Resilient Communities June 4-6, 2020... The summit was presented virtually due to the social distancing requirements. Most presenters were able to present their information and it was recorded. Pruitt reported that the recordings of the sessions are not yet available for login. Pruitt will make the information available to interested commissions members for their review. Daufeldt reported that she was able view four sessions over Thursday and Friday.

- d. Status, discussion and possible action of Historic Jail Museum/Archive potential grants and fund-raising (Wertzbaugher) Wertzbaugher reported she has had a lot of discussions regarding the Historic Resource Development Program (HRDP) grant. HRDP funding for this year was extended to June 1, 2020 for a deadline. Several scenarios were presented to maximize the amount of leverage for funding... Currently the best alternative is to apply for a Certified Local Government (CLG) grant for the architectural fees this year and apply for a Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine grant to meet the match requirements. Next year, 2021, the HRDP Grant will have more matching funds to apply by leveraging the CLG, Community Foundation grant and donations to use for a match for the HRDP funding of up to \$50,000. Wertzbaugher has the HRDP application in process. The information will remain on the site for the 2021 round.
- The recommended route to take now is to apply for the CLG by September 1, 2020 for half of the architectural fees (\$12,000). The results for CLG recipients are announced in November 2020. Half total architectural fees of \$25,000 qualifies for CLG because it was for planning. Apply to the Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine for a grant now. Combine the funding for these two grants. Use grants to leverage face to face campaign. Grants and donations will be use for 2021 HRDP matching funds.
- e. Discussion and possible action on update on Field Services Grant for potential project (Historic neighborhoods in West Liberty and Wilton) from Planning for Preservation – Update from Tallgrass (Allgood). Potential action for contract with Tallgrass.
- Have heard from Leah and had to pick a neighborhood. And suggest that we apply of CLG after the Historic Jail is finished. West Liberty may need to apply for its own CLG to get their neighborhoods started.
- f. Discussion of CLG Grant for County Schools and Churches. Expected time to begin work and schedule. (Daufeldt, Pruitt) Daufeldt sent 55 letters addressed to township trustees and clerks requesting nominations of two to three people per township that are interested in the history of the schools and churches.
- There was discussion about the including the volunteers from the windshield survey that was completed in 2017. Daufeldt requested that the names, addresses, phone numbers, and especially emails of those volunteers be sent to Daufeldt.
- The consultant, Rogers, will conduct the training via social media training when all the volunteers are known.
- g. Status of Historic Resources Development Program (HRDP) for Nichols Historic Commercial District submission and meeting with State Nomination Review Committee (SNRC)– (Pruitt); Field Services Report on

Nichols Saint Mary's Church. (Pruitt) – other ways MCHPC can help property owners (Pruitt) Jun 12 the SNRC will be deciding on the status of the three churches and field service grant by end of month there will be a new report.

Regarding St. Mary's when the roof was replaced, and materials were not historical it may require more justification.

The SNRC will be meeting on Nichols, Wilton and Button Factory (McKee) on June 12 agenda.

- h. Update of discussion and possible action on protecting historic building(s) at Fairport State Fish Hatchery including discussions with DNR on intensions by that agency. (Eagle, Boston, Stevens) Status of Technical Assistance Grant with McCarley (Pruitt, Eagle)

The following report was provided by Sandy Stevens due to call voice quality variations...

#### *SHPO*

*Heather Gibb (Acting Director SHPO): we had phone calls and emails with Heather re: DNR/fish hatchery/pumphouse, etc.*

*Heather confirmed there is nothing in the site file pertaining to an inventory form on the pumphouse or the larger property as a whole. She did not respond to my question as to whether SHPO still concurs with the SHPO position back in 1985 that the pre-1930s cultural resources at the fish hatchery are significant and eligible to the NRHP. SHPO continues to express their desire that we work with DNR and get DNR on board before we do any NRHP nomination.*

#### *Pumphouse*

*I completed a SHPO inventory form and prepared several figures and photographs and sent them to Rebecca McCarley asking her to pull the materials together into SHPO acceptable format and submit the inventory form for SHPO review and comment. Rebecca said she was too busy and could not get to it until late July. That does not meet our schedule. As a result, I contacted Wapsie Valley Archaeology to see if they could pull the pieces together in the manner acceptable to SHPO. Wapsie Valley said they can do that and can complete the form by early next week. They also said that in their opinion, the material I provided, and the format provided should be acceptable to SHPO. Nonetheless, Wapsie Valley will finalize preparation of the pumphouse inventory form. The museum will pay for this effort. Heather Gibb informed me that SHPO will not provide a determination of eligibility (DOE) on the pumphouse. She asks that an inventory form (in my opinion we could go straight to a NRHP nomination form) for the entire property. I envision a NRHP District with contributing and non-contributing resources and both archaeological resources and standing buildings/structures. If DNR proceeds with demolition, it should be incumbent upon them to pay for the nomination form as part of their mitigation requirements. SHPO should enforce the DNR's mitigation requirements and documentation would be foremost among them*

#### *DNR*

*Last week, Terry and I submitted our response to Randy Schultz of DNR outlining our vision for the pumphouse and the larger property. We have not heard back from Randy regarding DNR's response to our visions and requests for action. We will continue to be proactive in our attempts to coordinate with DNR in our efforts to preserve the history and cultural resources at the fish hatchery.*

*Terry sent a detailed email to Kayla ??, Director of DNR, asking that DNR work with us regarding the pumphouse and other resources at the fish hatchery. We look forward to working with her and DNR staff in the future.*

*OSA (Office of State Archaeology)*

*I submitted an archaeological site form on the pre-1930s living quarters at the fish hatchery to OSA. John Doershuk, State Archaeologist and Director of OSA, sent a letter to Randy Schultz that states OSA concurs with my recommendations that the site is potentially eligible for the NRHP and a ground-penetrating radar (GPR) survey of the living quarters is a cost efficient and effective methodology to assess the research potential of the site.*

*I have coordinated with Dr. Glenn Storey, Professor at U of Iowa, about conducting a GPR survey of the living quarters. Dr. Storey is agreeable to conducting such a survey and we hope to conduct the survey in early to mid-July. The total cost for 2 days of survey would be about \$1800-\$2200. The cost of this survey would be paid by the museum and possibly myself. We will need DNR permission to access the property so to that end I will be sure to contact Randy Schultz and others to get that permission. Thanks Sandy*

Eagle reported the Mc Kee Button Factory (Hershey Ave.) auction failed when the bids did not meet the reserve. The family will hold continue to hold the title for now.

There was also some discussion on the transfer of title/ownership of the Fish Hatchery that are rooted in the original deed of Federal land. There may be expressed stipulations in the deed that are being investigated by the National Button Museum regarding use of the property as a hatchery, maintenance of the property, including the 1930 and earlier structures.

Eagle did feel that the Feds were not interested in having it revert to them. Eagle has been in contact with Iowa Sen, Mark Lofgren -his suggestion was to talk to the department heads personally regarding: preservation of pumphouse the building or mitigation by DNR of the entire 68 acre property; discuss using the property for an interpretative trail explaining the propagation of mussels in the site again.

Need to determine if the property is still eligible for historic listing and still meets criteria under fed code. If eligible, partnership could be formed with University of Iowa, Fish and Wildlife, and others.

Next Steps .... Check with DNR, Randy Shultz, a timeline for demo permit and determine actions to stop demo. Trying to arrange meetings with Kayla Lion at DNR and with Cultural Affairs.

2. Upcoming meetings-none mentioned

3. Open Discussion
4. Confirm next meeting date and location – July 8