

**Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting on Thursday, 29 September 2016**

The Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission (MCHPC) met on Thursday, September 29 at Newt's Café in Nichols with commissioners Lynn Pruitt, Mary Beveridge, Rebeckah Allgood, Tom Furlong and Bill Koellner present. Jim Nepple, Lisa Wertzbaugher and Anna Mack, who was appointed to the Commission on Monday, were excused. Also present was Helen Thompson, who had directed the Old Jail/Archives project.

Lynn Pruitt called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m. Tom Furlong reported a treasury balance of \$6 550.18 which includes a \$1 400 CLG Preservation grant match and a \$5 600 CLG Historic Jail grant match.

Doug Steinmetz, architect of the Old Jail/Archives restoration project, presented a pre-development study. He has met with electricians and mechanical engineers of the Courthouse and hopes to tie in with the Courthouse geothermal unit. Plans will take advantage of the attached jail and will call for a new water system, new rest-rooms, office and an entrance ramp. A structural engineer has determined there is no attic access and the roof frame is probably not anchored properly to the rest of the house. The plan includes the installation of some metal anchor rods along the front wall and the back wall may need a few anchors as well. The second floor will include archival storage, which will be tight against the walls with storage cabinets along the walls. The roof frame needs some carpentry repairs, as does the basement, where the current reinforcement bars need to be covered. There is some deteriorated mortar on the outside of the building and there is a crack where the jail meets the house. Doug said that all of this is pretty typical for buildings of that age.

Because the building will be used for archival storage, there will be necessary humidity controls. This can be achieved with the geothermal unit but it may need to be monitored. Air conditioning and heating will also help to control the humidity, along with humidifiers. Mary Beveridge will work with Doug Steinmetz and will schedule a special meeting with Sherry Seright and the Commissioners to review the plans and then, following possible revision, present the plans to the Board of Supervisors. Mary will try to arrange a meeting with Sherry during the noon hour the week of October 10.

In other business: there were no reports on the West Liberty Fairgrounds, the Wilton Downtown Historic District and Building Façade Restoration or the Stage Coach Inn because the Nichols Town Hall meeting followed the meeting.

The October meeting will be held on at 12:30 Tuesday, 25 October at the County Administration Building. The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Beveridge
Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission