

**Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission  
Minutes of Meeting on Tuesday, 21 March 2017**

The Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission (MCHPC) met on Tuesday, March 21 at the Regional Learning Center in West Liberty with Commissioners Lisa Wertzbaugher, Lynn Pruitt, Mary Beveridge, Tom Furlong, Bill Koellner, Rebeckah Allgood and Bette Schneider present. Jim Nepple and Anna Mack were excused.

Lisa Wertzbaugher presided and called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. The minutes of the February 21 meeting were approved.

Mary Beveridge reported on the status of the Historic Jail project. She said that we are still awaiting approval of the design by SHPO and has talked with Jim Nepple who has talked on two occasions with Judi at the Community Foundation and once with Shelly Maharry at the Foundation. Jim said that we will be setting up 3 non-profit entities, one for the Old Barn, one for the Historic Jail and one for the Stagecoach Inn. There will be a Board of Directors for each of the 3 entities and Commissioners from our group will act as Advisors. Advisers for the Old Barn will be led by Lynn and Lisa, the Historic Jail will be led by Tom, Anna and Mary, and Bill will advise the Stagecoach Inn.

There was some discussion of the scope of the project. The project will, as planned, begin with the stabilization of the building and the total project might extend to 2 or 3 years. Lisa will study the plans and talk with Jim and then set up a time-line for the project. She will present the time-line to the Board of Supervisors at their meeting on Monday, April 17. This time-line or plan should be in place by our next meeting on April 18. Lisa has been discussing the project with Sherry Seright. Sherry would like to have photos of Commissioners working on the project. Mary has sent her photos and the text of an interview with Mary Zoller, who lived at the Historic Jail for 19 years when her father was the custodian, and Lisa will provide Sherry with additional photos of Commissioners working on the project.

Rebecca McCarley will present the completed Planning for Preservation project at a Town Hall meeting at 6 p.m. on April 20 at the Environmental Learning Center, 3300 Cedar Street in Discovery Park.

Reporting on the Stage Coach Inn, Bill Koellner is awaiting a "go-ahead" from Jim Nepple for a Friends Group. He will inform the group working on the Stage Coach Inn of Jim's meetings with the Community Foundation.

Lisa Wertzbaugher and Tom Furlong reported on the Fairgrounds project. Lisa plans to be at the Fair Board's meeting this Thursday, March 23 at 6 p.m. At that meeting they will be opening bids for the Ryan Building and the restrooms. Lisa will be making a presentation at the meeting and is concerned about the group's meeting the HRDP grant deadline by April 28.

Becky Allgood reported on the Wilton Downtown Revitalization project and said they are working on a HRDP grant for City Hall. They have finished a grant for the Recreation Center. Work on the Downtown Façades will start this summer. Becky said that while most funding for these projects is funneled through the town, Wilton has a Community Foundation for other projects.

Lynn Pruitt reported on the Old Barn and cottage at Discovery Park. The current plan, which was reported in today's *Journal*, is to keep the cottage until the County builds a new sewer and water line. The plan is to tap into old lines, but Lynn does not think that is likely to happen. The Friends Group wants a single line for sewer and water. The Barn is safe for the time being and should be eventually turned over to the Conservation Board. Lynn will take the lead for a Master Plan for the Old Barn and work with Shelly Maharry at the Community Foundation.

Lisa reported on the meeting of the Downtown West Liberty Task Force on March 15 and presented the Task Force with examples of our Commission's levels of support, extending from little to more support. The Task Force voted on more support. She has prepared a document with voting procedures and responsibilities and informed the Task Force she would like to know who is leading the Downtown Support Group with operating procedures. Lisa informed the group that (1) she needs to make sure the Downtown Support Group is in line with the philosophy of our Commission where the funding and money are concerned and (2) there needs to be a firm plan with the process in place. If the Support Group wants our Commission to adopt them as a project, then we would expect their Group to adopt our partnering document and then, after 3 to 5 years, the Commission must disengage from the project. For now, Bill and Lisa will continue to advise the Downtown Support Group.

Lisa reminded Commissioners to log in all volunteer time spent on projects. She has completed the Annual Report but feels it best to put it on hold until the Strategic Plan is presented by Rebecca McCarley at the Town Hall Meeting on April 21 at the Environmental Learning Center in Discovery Park.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 18 at 12 noon at the 76 Township Hall in Letts**. The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Beveridge  
Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission