

**Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission  
OFFICIAL PUBLIC AND MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES  
12 noon, Tuesday, December 16, 2025  
Muscatine County Administration Building  
Muscatine, Iowa**

**Members in attendance (X-present, E-excused, A-absent)**

Lynn Pruitt	E	John Kiwala	E
Michelle Elizondo	X	Joe Harper	X
Bill Koellner	X	Sue O'Donnell	X
Elise Shield	X	Chris Brase	X
Becky Allgood	X	Dave Lerch	X
Ken Snyder	E		

**Approval:**

- A. Meeting called to order by Chair Chris Brase
- B. Motion to amend Agenda to include Budget Request, Appointment of Officers and information from Iowa Economic Development by Brase, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Harper. Motion passed. Amended Agenda- Motion to approve by Harper, 2<sup>nd</sup> by, O'Donnell. Motion passed
- C. November 18, 2025, minutes- Motion to approved by Harper 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lerch. Motion passed

**Old Business:**

- A. **Budget request** - A motion was made to request \$10,000 from the Muscatine County Supervisors for 2026-27 fiscal year, by Kollner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Harper. Motion passed
- B. **Appointment of officers 2026-** Appointment will be made at next meeting after Board of Supervisors reappoints commission members.
- C. **Historic Transportation** – Nothing new to report.
- D. **Fruit and Vegetable Industry** – Book order have been received. Serval books were delivered to members.
- E. **Underground Railroad** – Brase gave update on National Park Service, Network to Freedom application process. It was recommended by Barry Jurgensen (Midwest Regional Manager) that we start out with only one site. Motion was made to start with the site of “Keith’s Mill” in West Liberty, by O'Donnell, 2<sup>nd</sup>by Harper. Motion passed. Brase will email out a list of work needed for members to help with. No update on getting the survey of Underground Railroad, completed by the Muscatine Historic Preservation Commission published.
- F. **Iowa Economic Development Authority-** 2026 CLG Grant will not open until late spring of 2026. The Commission has decided to go for a grant to update our Planning for Preservation in Muscatine County and to fund the next historic neighborhood in West Liberty.  
Iowa Rural Heritage Revitalization Grant. These federally funded awards, ranging from \$75,000 to \$150,000, will support the rehabilitation of historic properties in rural Iowa. Eligible properties must be listed on the National Register of Historic

Places or designated as National Historic Landmarks. Discussion in regards as to whether the “Stagecoach Inn” could apply for the Grant  
Brase has reported that Pruitt has been working on CLG annual report and would like to remind Commission members of training requirements and opportunities.

- G. **West Liberty Historic Neighborhood CLG Grant** – Koellner reported that they are working on the “Fact Sheets” for the 63 homes and all is going well
- H. **2026 Eagle Watch** – The date is January 17<sup>th</sup> from 9-12. We have reserved a spot and have two tables. We should start setting up around 8:30am.

**New Business:**

- A. **Next Meeting**-Board of Supervisors meeting room is not available. Location to be determined.
- B. **Projects for 2026** – We had more open discussion. Focus for 2026 is applying for a 2026 CLG for updating the County Planning for Preservation and West Liberty Historic Neighborhood and to work on getting recommended site associated with the underground railroad on the on National Park Service, Network to Freedom.

Brase informed the commission of discussion he has had with Sandy Stevens (Friends of Fairport Fish Hatchery) about working with the “metal detection hobbyist” to help locate possible archaeological sites. Casey Oberreuter (Detecting the Heartland-Metal Detecting Group) is interested in working with Sandy. Currently there is discussion about how to make this collaboration work.

Meeting Adjourned.

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 20, 2025 @ noon

Meeting adjourned at 12:50 pm.

Minutes submitted by:

Rebeckah Allgood

Minutes Approved Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ by: \_\_\_\_\_