

**Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission
OFFICIAL PUBLIC AND MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
12 Noon, Tuesday, March 24, 2026
Muscatine County Administration Building**

Members in attendance (X-present, E-excused, A-absent, R-remote call in)

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

Approval:

- A. Meeting called to order by Chair Chris Brase
- B. Agenda- Motion to approve by Bill, 2nd by, Lynn. Motion passed
- C. February 17, 2025, minutes- Correction by O'Donnell (old business Item A; Letters went out in February and Item D; Letters will go out later this spring). Motion to approved corrected minutes by Koellner 2nd by O'Donnell. Motion passed

Business:

- A. Historic Transportation- State DOT and County are OK with locations. 27 signs have been ordered, and tentative arrival date is April 10th. Once underground utilities have been marked a date will be established to start installing signs. Lynn will work to get the updated Transportation Book uploaded to Amazon Publisher.
- B. Fruit and Vegetable Industry- County is working to get QR codes for the 18 locations selected for signs. Letters to owners are being drafted and mailed. Kiwala has offered to give presentations about the impact of Fruit & Vegetables industry in Muscatine County.
- C. West Liberty Historic Neighbors (2025 CLG)- They are finishing up the neighbor homes review and expect to have the draft ready for review in April.
- D. Underground Railroad- Network to Freedom -Keith's Mill- Summary, Description of association and significance was email to Barry Jurgensen to review. Sources and Citations need to be added. Pictures of site, Mapes and Owner permission will need to be completed. Goal is to have Final Draft by end of May. The City has not moved forward with publication of survey. Chirs is going to contact Rebecca McCarley about possible publication of Underground railroad.
- E. County website & Beacon map update- County has new "Web master" and the Book files are to large. It was recommended that we divide the book down into smaller files. Lynn considered moving files to Musser Library but found that they would have the same issue. Lynn is working with the County and dividing up the book files. It

only applies to the Transportation book and Fruits & Vegetables book. The other book files were already divided up into sections.

- F. Iowa SHPO- Commission was updated on Preserve Iowa Summit agenda and were encouraged to attend. We believe CLG grants will come out in June. Historical Resource Development Program (HRDP) grants are available, Due date May 1st. Bill is going to talk with W.L. Heritage Foundation about applying and using HRDP grant to get the Stagecoach Inn back on the Nation Register. Discussion was had about using the HRDP grant to recognize Cedar River Briges and Ferry crossing as a historical district. Chris will contact Jennifer Price about this.
- G. Archaeology/Metal detection class will be on March 28th at Fairport Fish Hatchery starting at 10am. Background information. Chris has been working with Sandy Stevens and Casey Oberreuter (Detecting the Heartland) to set up a pilot project. This project aims to bridge the gap between archaeologists and metal-detecting hobbyists through mutual education and collaboration. We focus on teaching hobbyists the critical importance of archaeological context and provenience, while demonstrating the technical value and specialized skills detectorists bring to professional research. Ultimately, this partnership seeks to leverage hobbyist expertise to identify and investigate new potential archaeological sites. Elise has been working with Sandy since her appointment on the Commission in creating this program.
- H. Earth Day Fairport Fish Hatchery- April 25th. Commission will set up display table. Lynn reviewed the County map that will be used for a hands-on activity for public education and participation.
- I. County Fair- In-doors space at the Fair is not available. Discussion was had about the possibility of renting a tent and space large enough to bring all historical groups together under one location. Chris will investigate cost and continue to talk with County historical groups.

New Business:

- A. Discussion was had about promoting our historic sites. Sue will research what is available.
- B. Lynn informed commission possible bridge replacement on Bancroft Ave (Big Slough Creek Bridge)
- C. Bill discussed road work and bridge replacement on Hwy 6 between Wilton and Durant. Question about Story of Nelson and walnut trees that were planted.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm.

Minutes submitted by:

Chris Brase

Minutes Approved Date: ____/____/____ by: _____