

**Muscatine County Historic Preservation Commission
OFFICIAL PUBLIC AND MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES**

12 Noon, Tuesday, April 21, 2026

Muscatine County Administration Center, Supervisor’s Meeting Room

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

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

Visitors: Rebecca Sell and Krissy Channon (part time)

Approval:

- A. Meeting called to order by Chair Chris Brase
- B. Agenda- Motion to approve by Harper, 2nd by, Koellner. Motion passed
- C. January 20, 2025, minutes- Motion to approved by Harper 2nd seconded by Lerch. Motion passed
- D. Brase announced that Commission member Shield has accepted another job and will have to resign from this commission. Brase will review the paper work of two alternate commission members and report back to this commission.

Old Business:

- A. **County website and Beacon map upgrade** – The web master showed us the new website which is in the process of being built. A question/answer session followed.
- B. **Archaeology/Metal detection** – A archaeology/metal detection was done at the Fish Hatchery and there were 100 targets found. These were flagged for future study.
- C. **County Fair Update** – It was decided that the large tent rental option was not feasible, but we will still take out spot with a smaller tent for the Muscatine County Fair.
- D. **Historic Transportation & Fruit and Vegetable Industry-** Historic Transportation books were uploaded at Amazon and we will sell them for \$30. We will sell the Country Schools and Churches book for \$20 and the Fruit and Vegetable book for \$20. 27 signs were ordered for Transportation and we are in the process of getting them installed. We are preparing to order 18 signs for Fruit and Vegetable sites. We are working on QR codes for signs and then getting more historic sites up on the Beacon map.
- E. **Underground Railroad** – Brase has an introductory summary on the Underground Railroad and he will email this out to the commission members.
- F. **West Liberty Historic Neighborhood CLG Grant** – The Historian has completed the written research on 48 homes out of 63 possible homes so far on North Calhoun Street in West Liberty. Allgood reported that she is now on the Board of the Wilton Historical Society so she invited this group to be a part of the Wilton Certified Local Government.

- G. **Fairport Fish Hatchery** – Brase reported that the Earth Day event will be April 25 and was asking for volunteers from this group.

New Business:

- A. **HRDP Grant** – Pruitt is helping to put together an HRDP grant for the Mississippi Courts which is a 12 building site. The grant would be for \$4,500 to be put this site on the National Register of Historic Places.
- B. **Walnut Trees, Old Hwy 6** - Brase reported that he met with the county engineer and two representatives from the Wilton Historical Society to discuss options for the historic Walnut Trees that will have to be removed when they begin the Hwy 6 road work. A letter sent from Wilton Representative Lynn Ochiltree to the county engineer detailing options for the future of these trees from signage to removing of the whole tree. A motion was made by Koellner and seconded by O'Donnell to have President Brase write a letter to the county engineer also encouraging these options in an effort to keep the integrity of the history of these Walnut trees. Motion carried.
- C. **Promoting Historic Sites** – O'Donnell and Elizondo have agreed to update our brochure to add in more historic sites in Muscatine County.
- D. **CLG Grants** – CLG Grants will be coming out in June. We will be putting together a CLG Grant application to update our Planning for Preservation in Muscatine County. Also will apply for another historic neighborhood in West Liberty.
- E. **Friends of the Old Barn** – Spring at the Old Barn event is on May 16 from 11 - 5. Pruitt and Brase have agreed to set up and man a table for MCHPC.
- F. **Next Meeting** - Is on Tuesday, May 19 at noon at the Muscatine County Admin building.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm.

Minutes submitted by:

Rebeckah Allgood

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