

Minutes of the Jefferson County Historic Sites Preservation Commission Meeting
Thursday, June 16, 2016, 7:00pm
Bark River Woods Historical Society, Town Hall Museum, Town of Hebron, WI
W3087 Green Isle Drive, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

Call to Order: A meeting of the Jefferson County Historic Sites Preservation Commission (JCHSPC) was called to order at 7:03pm, presided over by Chairperson Cindy Arbiture.

Attendance: Commission Members: Cindy Arbiture, Robert Birmingham, Julia Ince, John Molinaro, Michael Opager; Absent: James Levy, Ed Morse; Members of the General Public: Walt Christensen, Olive Gross, Don Gross, Mark Watkins

Compliance with the Open Meetings Law: Arbiture stated that the meeting was in compliance with the open meetings law.

Review of Agenda: The agenda was reviewed with no changes.

Approval of Minutes of Meeting May 19, 2016: The minutes from May 19 were reviewed. Motion made to approve minutes by Birmingham, seconded by Molinaro. Motion carried by unanimous approval.

Communications:

Arbiture reported we received a communication from Maureen Giese, president of the Waterloo Historical Society. Giese offered that our commission could hold one of our future meetings at their society's meeting place.

Arbiture reported that she received a communication from Ed Morse suggesting Walt Christensen as a possible new board member.

Arbiture reported on communication with Joe DeRose of the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS). In addition to providing some advice on how to proceed concerning the silo at Pohlmann Park, DeRose pointed out that our commission's ordinance needs to be altered to make sure it is in keeping with the recently passed Wisconsin State Act 176. DeRose will join us at our July meeting to work on this issue.

Birmingham reported that Steve Nass spoke to him about the Fachwerk or timber-frame house at N7477 County Hwy O, Town of Waterloo, last discussed at our January meeting. Arbiture said she will phone Nass and give him an update on our commission's efforts to contact the owner of this house.

Citizens Comments:

Olive Gross, president of the Bark River Woods Historical Society, reported that their society is still working on getting a bigger new sign for their museum. Our commission thanked them for hosting this meeting.

New Business:

Discussion with Mark Watkins, Jefferson County Potter's Field, Pauper's Cemetery:

Watkins, director of the Land and Water Conservation Department of Jefferson County, presented to our commission an overview of the county's actions concerning this cemetery since 2002. He passed around a hand-out as part of this overview. He stated that it was determined that over 700 potential burials took place on the county grounds, but the records of these burials are woefully incomplete. A discussion was held concerning how our commission might be able to raise money or receive a grant to help maintain the site. It was suggested that we network with other cemetery associations and talk to the Jefferson City government. Molinaro suggested that the first thing we should do is work to get the cemetery listed as a local Jefferson County historic landmark. Watkins said he did not anticipate any problems from the Land and Water Conservation Department concerning awarding the cemetery local landmark status. Molinaro made a motion to make application to the county board to give local Jefferson County landmark status to the potter's field cemeteries, seconded by Opager, motion carried by all. Birmingham agreed to write up the material for the landmark status. It was agreed that once the cemetery received landmark status that we would issue a press release. Watkins said he will inform the land and conservation department of our intent to give the cemeteries the local landmark status.

Pohlmann Park Silo, Jefferson County Parks Department

Last month our commission received an email from Joe Nehmer, Jefferson County Parks Department Director, asking our committee to give him some feedback on the silo at Pohlmann Park. In following up on this issue, Arbiture stated that she spoke to Joe DeRose of the WHS. A discussion was held concerning how we should proceed on the matter. It was agreed our commission should inform the parks department that it is our opinion, as long as the silo is structurally sound, the continued existence of the silo would be an asset to the park. The silo embodies the Pohlmann legacy and it contributes to rural landscape of Jefferson County. It was built using a type of silo-construction known as "rock-faced" concrete block, dating to the first decades of the 20th century, that was far less common than the usual poured concrete or flat-faced concrete block construction.

Recruiting New Board Members, Report on Contacts Made:

A discussion was held concerning the need to recruit more board members in the near future. Levy's absences were discussed. Arbiture stated she has been in contact with Levy and he said he would like to continue to be of help to our commission, but not as a board member. We have not received a resignation from him. Christiansen was asked if he would be interested in becoming a member. He stated that he may be interested, but will not be able to make the July meeting due to prior commitments. He will let us know his decision in a week or so.

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), New Applications:

We cannot work on any new NRHP applications for sub-grant funding with the Wisconsin Historical Society, until we amend our ordinance as discussed above.

Old Business**Legacy Architecture, Contract Update:**

Arbiture reported that she got a call back from Jennifer Lehrke of Legacy Architecture, Inc., and everything has been done, but Lehrke has reviewed only one of the properties and has not had a chance to review the other. Legacy has until August 2016 to complete the review and the entire project.

Updating Our Commission Forms on the Jefferson County Website:

Molinaro had updated Jefferson County Local Landmark Fact Sheet for the website and Arbiture forwarded it to Tammie Jaeger, Jefferson County Administrative Secretary. Tammie said she will make the update on the website.

Jefferson County's New Policy Update on Social Media:

Morse was unable to make it to the meeting tonight due to an injury. His report on using social media to promote our commission's work is tabled until the next meeting he is able to attend.

Discussion about Crowd-Rise Fundraising:

Opager made a report on Crowd-Rise, something he has had experience working with from his association with the Watertown Theater. Crowd-Rise is a form of web-based fundraising that works with non-profits. You embed your linkage into their website and you publicize this to attract contributions. There are two options when working with Crowd-Rise: One sets up the contributions with 3% of the incoming monies going to Crowd-Rise and you pay them \$50 monthly. With the second option, they take 5% with no monthly fee. There is no time limit as with some other crowd fundraising sites. Once you reach your goal, then the fundraising stops. Opager recommended we go with the 5% option, because we don't know how long it could take to raise the needed funds. Molinaro stated that we need first to determine a specific goal for our fund-raising.

Next Meeting Date: 7:00pm, July 21, 2016, UWEX Building, room TBA

Future Agenda Items:

JCHSPC Ordinance update and discussion with Joe DeRose (WHS)

New NRHP applications

Further discussion on Crowd-Rise Fund-raising

Jefferson County New Policy Update on Social Media

Producing a Brochure for the Promotion of Our Commission

Adjourn: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Opager, seconded by Ince, meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Submission of Meeting Minutes: Minutes of the meeting respectfully submitted by Julia Ince, secretary on June 18, 2016.