

**Minutes of the Jefferson County Historic Sites Preservation Commission Meeting**  
**Thursday, October 20, 2016, 7:00pm**  
**UWEX Building, Jefferson, WI, Room 12**  
**Jefferson, Wisconsin**

**Call to Order:** A meeting of the Jefferson County Historic Sites Preservation Commission (JCHSPC) was called to order at 7:05pm, presided over by Chairperson Cindy Arbiture.

**Attendance:** Commission Members: Cindy Arbiture, Julia Ince, John Molinaro, Ed Morse, Michael Opager; Absent: Bob Birmingham

**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. It was agreed to move item fourteen up to item number nine.

**Approval of Minutes of Meeting September 15, 2016:** The minutes from September 15 were reviewed. Motion made to approve minutes by Opager, seconded by Morse. Motion carried by unanimous approval.

**Communications:**

Arbiture reported Molinaro gave her a note in regard to a potential new commission member potential, which will be discussed below under the topic of Possible New Commission Members.

Arbiture reported she contacted Nancy Ruehle to inform her that, according to feedback we received from the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS), her timber frame home is not potentially eligible for National Register of Historic Preservation (NRHP) listing. Ruehle said she may challenge decision. To help facilitate her challenge, Arbiture gave Ruehle the contact information of Diana Penkiunas, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, and Joe DeRose, Survey and Registration Historian, WHS.

Morse gave us an update on the Pohlmann Silo. The Jefferson County Parks Department has received an estimate to upgrade the silo that will cost around \$25,000 and an estimate of \$3,000 to tear it down. The parks department has not yet made any decisions on this. Morse said that the local sentiment is for not removing the silo.

Morse reported that we received a statement of royalties from Arcadia Publishing for the sales of *Jefferson County, Wisconsin*, a book published by the former Jefferson County Historical Alliance who donated the royalties from sales to our commission. Morse explained that in the future we can receive these statements via email if we choose to. Arbiture stated that she will look into this and report back at the next meeting.

**Citizens Comments:** none

**Barn Preservation Efforts, New Ideas, Sponsors for Repairs:**

Arbiture began the discussion by stating that she felt that barn restoration efforts should be a priority for us as a preservation commission that oversees the rural areas of the county. She discussed the fact that many barns in the county are becoming dilapidated and some owners do not have the financial means to make repairs. It has become popular to dismantle barns and sell the old wood for use in furniture or paneling, which may contribute to the further destruction of old barns.

Arbiture suggested that perhaps we could create a program whereby we work with business sponsors to help pay for the repairs of the historic barns. Arbiture explained that we could ask a business for a financial donation that would go towards barn repairs and in turn we would put up a business sponsor sign or panels on the barn that would remain up for two years. The sign or panels would function as an acknowledgement for the donation as well as advertising for the business. She suggested that such a sign could harken back to the days when the sides of barns displayed commercial advertising to cars passing on nearby roads. She added that a heritage tourism map could be made that featured the historic barns.

A discussion was held concerning the merits of such a program. Commission members noted that businesses would be interested in knowing what sort of exposure these signs or panels would have, depending on how heavy the traffic was on the nearby roads and the location of the barn vis a vis the road. Morse asked who would do the legwork to find such sponsors. Arbiture stated that she would be willing to take on some of this work herself. Molinaro said that he was familiar with a program in Nantucket, Massachusetts, where there is a tax on real estate transfers that goes toward historic preservation, but some time ago when he discussed the possibility of a similar tax with our county board, it was roundly opposed. Other merits of and obstacles to such a program were discussed. Morse suggested that we could start a pilot program and other commission members agreed that we should start with an attempt at a pilot program. Arbiture thanked the commission members for their comments and said that we will revisit this topic as a future agenda item.

#### **Annual Election of Commission Officers:**

Molinaro made a motion to re-instate the current roster of office holders, motion seconded by Opager. The motion was carried by unanimous approval.

#### **Possible New Commission Members:**

Molinaro suggested Dana Bertelsen as a possible new commission member. She is the assistant director of the Hoard Museum in Fort Atkinson. Molinaro said Bertelsen is interested in being a member. Molinaro spoke with the museum about the possibility and there were no objections, so he said we should invite her to a future meeting. Our members were encouraged to continue looking for potential members.

#### **Edits to the Application Completed for NRHP by Legacy Architecture:**

Legacy Architecture, Inc., completed the edits to the application for the NRHP for the formerly named Keller Farmstead, now revised to be the "Beck" Farmstead. Bob Short from Legacy Architecture sent us an email stating that the new corrected application has been sent to the Wisconsin Historical Society and a letter of receipt has been sent to Short by Ian Gort, Historic Preservation Program Associate at the WHS.

#### **Follow-Up with Joe DeRose about JCHSPC Ordinance Complying with Wisconsin Statutes:**

Arbiture reported that she and Morse met with Blair Ward of the Jefferson County Corporation Counsel, to discuss the edits in our commission's ordinance to comply with Wisconsin State Act 176. Arbiture

passed out a copy of these edits to our ordinance that resulted from that meeting. Our commission reviewed the edits of the JCHSPC ordinance. Opager made a motion to accept that edits as presented to our commission. Molinaro seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous approval. The ordinance amendments will be on the County Board agenda for approval on Oct 25.

**Applications to WHS for Two New Certified WHS Local Government Subgrants:**

Our commission is submitting two new applications to the WHS for WHS Certified Local Government (CLG) sub-grants by the deadline of November 11, 2016. These grant requests will be for monies to cover the costs of applications for NRHP status for two properties during the period of February 2017 to July 2018. One of these properties is the Joan Hyer property located at N7609 Airport Road, Waterloo, WI 53594, with the historic name of Stony Brook School. The other property was originally planned to be the Nancy Ruehle property mentioned above in Communications, but due to that property being deemed as possibly not eligible, another property needed to be chosen. A discussion was held concerning which property we should choose. Molinaro made a motion that we pick the Bergenz Farmstead located at W2743 Aliceton Dr. Watertown, but if the owner of that property is not interested, then our second choice should be the Brick Street School located at N5706 County Highway S, Lake Mills, and if that owner is not interested, then our third choice should be Wright's Mill School located at W3393 Hagedorn Road, Hebron. Opager seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous approval.

**Letter Sent to Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation of Nomination for Jefferson County Potter's Field for Local Landmark Status:**

Arbiture reported that our commission is sending a letter via certified mail to Mark Watkins, Director of the Land and Water Conservation Department of Jefferson County, to inform him that our commission is moving along with the process to nominate the Jefferson County Potter's Field Cemetery (Pauper's Cemetery) as a Local Historic Landmark in Jefferson County. He has thirty days to respond to this letter, as per our Jefferson County Historic Preservation Ordinance.

**Next Meeting Date:** 7:00pm, November 17, 2016

**Future Agenda Items:**

Ince suggested that we consider creating a brochure that highlights the work of our commission. Morse said we need to discuss updates to our website due to the changes in our ordinance.

**Adjourn:** A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Opager, seconded by Molinaro, meeting adjourned at 9:03pm.

**Submission of Meeting Minutes:** Minutes of the meeting respectfully submitted by Julia Ince, secretary on October 22, 2016.