

LISBON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting
June 17, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President Hess at 4:31 p.m. at City Hall.
Present: Rebecca Hess, Amelia Kibbie, Marc Mohn, Ann Opatz, and Marianne Zahorik. Guest: John Bardsley, City Council Liaison.

Moved by Zahorik, seconded by Mohn, to approve the agenda. The motion passed on a voice vote of 4-0.

Moved by Hess, seconded by Zahorik, to approve the minutes of the May 20 meeting. The motion passed on a voice vote of 4-0. Moved by Zahorik, seconded by Mohn, to approve the minutes of the May 26 meeting. The motion passed on a voice vote of 4-0.

(Commissioner Kibbie arrived.)

Meyers Farmstead Historic District: Reports on the structural condition of the barns prepared by HDHY Engineering, Inc. (on behalf of the City's insurance provider) and Hooting Coyote, LLC (on behalf of the LHPC) have been received and were discussed.

The HDHY site visit and report prepared by Joseph Yoder noted the following conclusions: (1) the barns were not habitable or suitable for human activities prior to the August 2020 derecho; (2) the barns sustained additional damage during the August 2020 derecho; (3) cost to repair the barns would likely exceed the value of the barns; and (4) repairs to the roofs of the barns damaged during the August 2020 derecho cannot be safely made until the overall structural integrity of the barns has been addressed.

The report provided by Todd Birkel of Hooting Coyote is thorough and detailed, noting observations, findings, recommendations, and projected costs for the three structures. He concluded that the barns should not be used as public gathering places due to building code requirements for capacity and reliability, but could be used for historic exhibits and barn-like storage once stabilized. The report provides recommendations and cost estimates for immediate repairs, short-term repairs, and long-term repairs for each of the three structures.

It was suggested that insurance money from damage done by the derecho be reinvested into the barns.

Hess reported that local contractor Blinks Brothers expressed an interest in repairing and restoring the barns. Of immediate concern is repairing the damage to the roofs caused by the August 2020 derecho. While the insurance company advised the City to refrain from fixing the roofs until issues of structural integrity can be addressed, Hess noted that Ace Hardware has a sky-lift available for rent that would provide a safe way to repair the roofs by using a basket rather than a ladder. Now that reports from a structural engineer and a preservation structural engineer have been received, it was decided that LHPC will request that the repair of the barns be included as an agenda item for discussion at the June 28 meeting. In order to prepare for the meeting, each commissioner will present a list of five important points to make at that meeting.

Moved by Opatz, seconded by Mohn, to approve the invoice submitted by Hooting Coyote Engineering LLC in the amount of \$2,650. The motion passed on a voice vote of 5-0.

History Center Rehabilitation Project: Hess and Opatz recommended that LHPC request the History Center Foundation submit an application to the Linn County Community and Economic Development grant program to support the rehabilitation of the exterior west wall of the History Center building. Opatz informed City Administrator Siggins of this grant opportunity and received his authorization to pursue this funding. Opatz will meet with the History Center Board on June 21 to discuss the grant and offer assistance in the preparation of the application. Moved by Opatz, seconded by Zahorik, to approve consulting with the History Center Foundation on an application to the Linn County Community and Economic Development grant application. The motion passed on a voice vote of 5-0.

Hess reported that awards for the HRDP grant will be announced no later than July 1.

Opatz will recommend that the History Center Foundation send a thank-you letter to the Linn County Board of Supervisors and the Linn County Historic Preservation Commission for the recent grant award of \$2,400 for the Phase I Life Safety components of the preservation plan for the History Center building. She noted that City Administrator Siggins will be contacting Bi-State Masonry to

schedule the Phase I work and that he will also inform the History Center Foundation of the proper means for handling the Linn County grant funds.

Library Rehabilitation Project: LHPC liaison Bardsley reported that he suggested the Friends of the Lisbon Library send a thank-you letter to the Linn County Board of Supervisors and the Linn County Historic Preservation Commission for the recent grant award of \$4,000 for the Phase I Life Safety components of the preservation plan for the Library building. Opatz noted that City Administrator Siggins will be contacting Bi-State Masonry to schedule the Phase I work and that he will also inform the Friends of the Lisbon Library of the proper means for handling the Linn County grant funds.

2020 Downtown Reinvestment Grant Program final inspection for D & D Body Shop: The final report and inspection of the Downtown Reinvestment Grant project for D & D Body Shop was reviewed. Moved by Hess, seconded by Zahorik to recommend approval to the City Council. The motion passed on a voice vote of 5-0.

2020 Downtown Reinvestment Grant Program final inspection for Travis Allen/Sivart Studio. Since the work did not relate to the historic nature of the building, no action was required by LHPC.

2021 Downtown Reinvestment Program Grant application by Nick Walton/ Walton Construction: Following review and discussion, the application will be returned to the City Administrator with questions related to zoning compliance, specific information on which windows will be replaced, and clarification of Downtown Reinvestment Grant Program guidelines relating to the number of bids required when the applicant is a contractor.

2021 Downtown Reinvestment Grant Program application by Travis Allen/Sivart Studio: Since the proposed project does not relate to the historic nature of the building, no action was required by LHPC.

Grout Museum Oral Histories Update: Zahorik will report at a future meeting.

Comprehensive Plan Update: Mohn reported that the committee has not met in recent weeks.

LHPC information on City Website Update: Zahorik will report at a future meeting.

Other business: Hess announced that an email with access to recorded Preserve Iowa Summit sessions will be sent by the SHPO soon. She also suggested that LHPC commissioners keep track of the hours committed to LHPC meetings and projects.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted: Ann Opatz, Secretary

Date Approved: _____

Signed: _____
Rebecca Hess, Chair