

## **LISBON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

### **Minutes of Meeting**

**April 15, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. at City Hall by Chair Rebecca Hess. Present: Marc Mohn, Ann Opatz and Marianne Zahorik. Absent: Amelia Kibbie. Guest: John Bardsley, Council Liaison.

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

Moved by Hess, seconded by Mohn, to approve the minutes of the March 18 meeting. The motion passed on a voice vote of 4-0.

Updates:

Meyers Farmstead District: Hess, Zahorik, and Drayton Kamberling met with Doug Steinmetz on April 13 to begin the site visit at the Meyers Farmstead Historic District. Because of possible damage from the derecho, Steinmetz suggested that a structural engineer assess the buildings, especially the smallest barn. Steinmetz recommended Todd Birkel of Galena, Illinois. The City's insurance company will also bring in a structural engineer. It was noted that repairs to the roofs of the barns have not been made and that there has been some interior damage due to snow and rain.

Linn County Historic Preservation Grants: The Friends of the Lisbon Library and the History Center Foundation submitted grants to Linn County to help with the costs of life safety recommendations outlined in the Preservation Plans. The Friends of the Lisbon Library requested approximately one-third of the cost (\$5,212) and the History Center Foundation requested approximately one-half of the cost (\$2,400) for these items. Preliminary notification of awards will be made on May 6, with formal notification to follow after formal approval by the Linn County Board of Supervisors. The bid from Bi-State Masonry (BSM) of Rock Island, Illinois was approved by the City Council. BSM was the only contractor to submit a quote out of 14-16 RFQs sent. If Linn County awards funds toward these projects, work will begin after July 1. If funds are not awarded, work can begin immediately.

Tourism Signs for Highways 30 and 1: The Historic District destination sign on Highway 1 has been installed, and the trailblazer signs have been ordered. Once the trailblazer signs are installed, DOT will install destination signs on Highway 30.

Main Street Historic District Signs: Hess has been in conversation with Brett Rickard of Lisbon about signs for downtown. A mock-up was shared, and Hess will continue to work with Rickard to finalize a design.

Comprehensive Planning Committee: Mohn reported that he attended one of the two meetings recently held. Concern was expressed regarding the lack of inclusion of historic preservation as a "plan topic." When the issue was raised at the Comprehensive Planning Meeting, the facilitator

noted that historic preservation falls under Arts and Culture. It was suggested that more discussion was needed on this issue.

Historic Resource Development Program (HRDP) Grant: Hess reported that she and Opatz have been working on the draft of the HRDP grant, due May 3. Hess is working to obtain an estimate from BSM for the purpose of preparing the budget, and to identify a consultant to oversee the project (also tied to the budget).

National Historic Preservation Month: Opatz expressed interest in continuing a special activity with the third grade class, with COVID restrictions in mind. It was decided that Opatz will ask Emily Krall Wieseler about showing the video of the walking tour of the Main Street Historic District. Other videos could be shown throughout the week as well. Opatz will prepare the proclamation for City Council action in early May, and work with The Sun on publicity and a guest article.

Silos and Smokestacks Discussion: Opatz and Zahorik reported on a Zoom meeting with Candy Streed and Laura Eilers at the Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Program. Drayton Kamberling also attended the meeting. The Silos and Smokestacks program assists with marketing, networking, and technical assistance in developing story programming and educational programs. Examples of Silos and Smokestacks work can be seen at the Johnson County Poor Farm in Iowa City and at the Harriman-Nielsen Historic Farm in Hampton, Iowa. They also suggested we arrange to have an oral history video done with Steve McElmeel and Miriam Johnson, to capture their memories of the Meyers Farmstead. This type of project would be coordinated by the Grout Museum in connection with the Iowa Farmer Stories video series. Sneed suggested Lisbon apply for “Emerging Heritage Site” status in 2022 when the program re-opens. Silos and Smokestacks is a non-profit organization funded in part by the National Park Service.

Moved by Opatz, seconded by Hess, to table items #8, #9, and #10. The motion passed on a voice vote of 4-0.

Training: Hess reported that all LHPC members are registered for the Preservation Iowa Summit, to be held on-line again this year.

Other Business: The Linn County Historic Preservation Commission plans a phased replacement of the Lincoln Highway interpretive signs in Linn County over the next several years. The updated sign in Lisbon will be installed in Lincoln Square Park; the current sign at the History Center will remain in place.

Hess reported that work is underway to replace the stained glass window at the Lisbon United Methodist Church. She has been taking photos to document the installation, to be posted on the LHPC Facebook page. The church has also documented this project with a YouTube video.

Ann Opatz will respond to Silas Young’s question regarding the status of the “Save Our Buildings, Save Ourselves” video.

Discussion followed regarding the recent sale of the Harry Phelps farm, located in Johnson County but with a Lisbon address. LHPC informed the Johnson County Historical Society and the Johnson County Historic Preservation Commission of the historic value of this property as a

former stagecoach stop, and those organizations will work with the new owner to inventory and document the property.

Questions were raised about the City's plans to drill a new well in the Nature Park. Hess discussed the location and appearance of the building with City Administrator Siggins, who said the City is considering locating the well on the northeast corner of the park, away from the Meyers Farmstead Historic District, and also considering the materials to be used in constructing the building so that it blends well with the surroundings.

Next meeting: Thursday, May 20, at 4:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Submitted: Ann Opatz, Secretary

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rebecca Hess, Chair