

Minutes of Meeting
Sangamon County Historic Preservation Commission
August 3, 2016

Members Present: Chuck Pell, Chairman
Bob Sherman, Vice Chairman
Mike Brooks
Jeanette Goza
Tina Lathan
Aakash Raut
James Schackmann
Norm Sims
Dean Williams

Members Absent: Jerry Jacobson

Staff Present: Steve Keenan, Emily Prather

Call to Order: A quorum being present, Chairman Pell called the meeting to order at 4:06 PM.

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Pell entertained a motion to approve the July minutes. Staff read an email with amendments from Commissioner Jacobson. A motion to approve the July minutes as amended was made by Commissioner Schackmann and was seconded by Vice Chairman Sherman. The voice vote to approve was unanimous.

Chairman's Report/Comments: Chairman Pell passed around a thank-you card that he created for the oldest farmhouse project, and he stated that they would be sent. Chairman Pell also encouraged the Commissioners to continue to survey historical properties. Chairman Pell will speak on behalf of the Commission to the King's Daughters Organization in October and give a presentation on the oldest farmhouse project and on county landmarks. Vice Chairman Sherman asked Chairman Pell if the Commissioners could get a copy of the thank-you card.

Committee Reports: None

Old Business: None

New Business: Commissioner Williams brought a rough draft of the proclamation for Buffalo Hart Presbyterian Church and passed it around for the Commissioners to review. Commissioner Goza stated she would retype the new proclamation adding the Commissioners' names, Historic Preservation Commission logo, and all other necessary changes and then send it to staff to distribute to the Commission for final review before the proclamation is presented to Buffalo Hart Presbyterian Church.

Initial Recommendation for New Landmark Applications: None

Member Reports: Commissioner Lathan handed out copies of a spreadsheet she created with a list of 22 sites in the County that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and also included the township information and notes on the site. Vice Chairman Sherman asked why the Carpenter's Mill was not included on the spreadsheet Commissioner Lathan created. Chairman Pell stated it might not be listed on the National Register so it would not be included on the list

and Vice Chairman Sherman stated then it should be included on the Commission's list. Commissioner Lathan stated the list she created was based on a list that was provided to her by staff for sites that are located in the unincorporated area and does not include National Register sites in Springfield.

Commissioner Brooks brought up the Bolivia Road Bridge. Chairman Pell stated it currently has not been landmarked but he believes a survey was completed. Commissioner Brooks noted the bridge is supposedly one of the oldest steel truss bridges in the state but it is marked for demolition and currently is closed. Vice Chairman Sherman, Commissioner Brooks, Chairman Pell, and Commissioner Sims discussed (conceptually) relocating the bridge, incorporating it in a bike trail either for the Sangamon Valley Trail or Sherman, whether to landmark it or not, the lack of state funding and other funding sources to either preserve it or move it, and the amount of work to move the bridge since it is over 100 feet long. Commissioner Sims stated there are at least two key problems: 1) finding funding for moving the bridge and making it structurally sound and 2) finding someone who wants to take it. Vice Chairman Sherman stated he believed Commissioner Jacobson asked Landmarks Illinois to place the bridge on its "10 Most Endangered" in Illinois. Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Sims, Vice Chairman Sherman, and Chairman Pell also discussed other historic bridges in the County that the Commission might need to identify.

Vice Chairman Sherman reported that he is working with three of the people that submitted their farms in the oldest farmhouse search to finish surveys.

Commissioner Brooks reported he took Bob Ramsey his certificate. Chairman Pell asked what was done with the Harrison Farmhouse and who received the certificate. Staff mentioned the owner was mailed a certificate and the submitter was believed to be at the event. Commissioner Brooks and Chairman Pell had a discussion on a farmhouse located near the Ramsey house as to whether that farmhouse is historic (or new construction to appear historic); Commissioner Brooks will investigate.

Commissioner Schackmann had a question about the Sugar Creek Bridge and it being deemed a landmark and who actually owns the bridge. Commissioner Schackmann will try and figure out ownership if it is Chatham and staff will check if a survey has been completed.

Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Sims, and Chairman Pell discussed the Bolivia Road Bridge. The discussion included the estimated \$250,000 cost to move and reassemble the bridge, figuring out where the bridge would go, and applying for grants after the future location is known. The discussion also included why a new bridge would not be built next to the current bridge. Chairman Pell stated it might be feasible to move the new bridge, because it would require buying people's property, evaluating parts of the environment that are affected, and completing additional studies. Chairman Pell stated it would be a good idea to start thinking about where this bridge could be relocated in Sangamon County and get a plan in place for that time when money becomes available. Commissioner Brooks stated he would reach out to Tim Zahn to ask him for the status on the bridge and then would report back to the Commission.

Staff Reports: Staff introduced new staff member Emily Prather who will be working with the Historic Preservation Commission going forward. Staff also informed the Commission of a potential guest speaker in regards to the Kilhoffer house who wanted to know the pros and cons for landmarking at the September meeting.

Public Comment: None

Additional Comments: None

Adjourn: Chairman Pell entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Schackmann made a motion to adjourn the August meeting with Commissioner Brooks seconding the motion. The voice vote to approve was unanimous and the meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Emily Prather