

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Sangamon County Historic Preservation Commission**  
**January 6, 2016**

**Members Present:** Chuck Pell, Chairman  
Robert 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

**Call to Order:** A quorum being present, Chairman Pell called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM.

**Approval of Minutes:** Chairman Pell entertained a motion to approve the December minutes. A motion to approve the December minutes was made by Vice Chairman Sherman and was seconded by Commissioner Brooks. The voice vote to approve was unanimous.

**Chairman's Report/Comments:** Chairman Pell informed the group that Commissioner Brooks spoke on the radio about the farmhouse search. He expressed hope that another story could be arranged with Channel 20. Chairman Pell reminded everyone to get out and do surveys.

Chairman Pell asked Commissioner Brooks to summarize his radio interview. Commissioner Brooks said he was interviewed by WSMI in Litchfield. He told the interviewer it is important to find old farmhouses because no one really knows how many exist. Chairman Pell said the Farmhouse Committee [FC] discussed a house on Buckhart Road that likely did not meet the search requirements. He said if someone sees an old farmhouse to inform its owners of the search. Chairman Pell said it is possible owners still do not know about the search. Chairman Pell and staff discussed the number of entries received.

Vice Chairman Sherman said the Committee discussed two other farmhouses. He said both are old but do not sit on forty acres. Commissioner Sims said broadening the search might make sense. He said after the banking crisis, there were several homeowners who had to separate the farmhouse from the farmland for lending purposes. Commissioner Brooks summarized the discussion of a residence on Old Route 36 that might qualify for the search, if entered. He said if the search works, there could be another search for structures from different periods. Commissioner Sims suggested a search for Route 66 structures. Commissioner Brooks said barns would be cool. Vice Chairman Sherman said the National Trust cutoff is fifty years, so why restrict ourselves to 1900. Chairman Pell said pre-Civil War made sense with this search because of the Lincoln-era connection. Commissioner Sims said it started out as what is the oldest. Commissioner Brooks said he emphasized Lincoln in the rationale for the cut-off date. Vice Chairman Sherman said there is a Greek Revival style house on Route 125 that would meet the criteria for the period as well. Chairman Pell said we each might know or see a house that could

meet the search criteria; he mentioned a house near Clayville that had its second floor removed that has a relationship to the Broadwell Family associated with Clayville. Commissioner Brooks said it might be better to error on the side of more entries, even if a bunch later need to be ruled out. He emphasized that houses ruled out with this search might be good material for another search.

Chairman Pell said he wanted to thank Commissioner Schackmann for getting the Historic Preservation Commission [HPC] Facebook page online. A more detailed discussion followed under New Business.

**Old Business:** Chairman Pell turned the floor over to Commissioner Brooks for the Farmhouse Committee report. Commissioner Brooks said the Committee brainstormed ways to get out the farmhouse search message. He said Vice Chairman Sherman would try to find a way to contact some rural churches. Commissioner Brooks would contact some local FFA chapters and might speak to some Ag classes. Chairman Pell asked about WSMI's reach. Commissioner Brooks said it reaches the southern part of Sangamon County. He said there is a similar radio station in Taylorville that reaches eastern Sangamon County. Commissioner Brooks said someone would reach out to the REA [Rural Electrification Association]. He said he thought Channel 20 could do a story on the search this weekend. Commissioner Brooks said the Committee mentioned reaching out to the *Illinois Times*. Vice Chairman Sherman said a follow up article could encourage more entries. Chairman Pell suggested mentioning entries will be taken until the end of March and where the application is available. He said January or February would be perfect for follow-ups. Vice Chairman Sherman and Commissioner Brooks discussed some Brandt ground. Commissioner Brooks said he was asked how can you date a particular house. He said he mentioned there are ways to date the craftsmanship in the building and construction of the house. Staff mentioned there is a tree ring expert who would like to help with the search.

**New Business:** Chairman Pell asked Commissioner Schackmann to brief the HPC on the status of its Facebook page. After the page was brought up, Chairman Pell said there is no logo. Commissioner Schackmann said there is not a banner yet. He said he wanted to use the letterhead logo, but the image pixilated. Commissioner Sims suggested having some houses with people in them. Commissioner Brooks asked if it could be a picture with people from a long time ago, to which Commissioner Sims said that would be okay too. Commissioner Schackmann said rotating the content is key. Several Commissioners discussed advertising on Facebook. Chairman Pell advised sending posts to Commissioner Schackmann for now. Commissioner Schackmann said he set some limits on what can be posted. He said Facebook sends a notification to the administrators first before someone can post to the site. Commissioner Schackmann said the Farm Bureau could post something after the HPC reviewed it. Chairman Pell asked if there is a designated marketing person at the Farm Bureau. Commissioner Brooks mentioned the person who forwarded the search entries. Chairman Pell asked Commissioner Brooks to inform the Farm Bureau the HPC now has a Facebook page.

Chairman Pell asked Commissioner Goza to highlight the new graphics she created for the HPC. Commissioner Goza said there are four separate designs from which to choose. Several Commissioners discussed several designs, and the Chair made a selection to be forwarded to Commissioner Schackmann for the Facebook page.

**Initial Recommendation for New Landmark Applications:** None.

**Member Reports:** Commissioner Lathan said she is still looking for photos of the church that was converted into a farmhouse.

Commissioner Brooks said he is working on a survey.

Vice Chairman Sherman asked Commissioner Lathan for the pastor's name at Island Grove Methodist Church.

Commissioner Williams asked if the Commissioners want to attend the VIP showing of the 2015 Lincoln Funeral Re-enactment film at the Lincoln Home Visitors Center. The date is not determined yet. Chairman Pell suggested inviting all Commissioners. Commissioner Williams said he would shoot photographs of the Commissioners for Facebook if there is interest.

**Staff Reports:** Staff highlighted a new positive train control railroad tower that the Union Pacific Railroad proposes to construct in railroad right of way near Thayer. He said he created a buffer and found no local landmarks within a short distance [1/2 mile] of the site. Staff said previous requests were handled via letter. Commissioner Sims suggested the letter contain language that part of the property is within the jurisdiction of the Village of Thayer and advising the railroad to check with them as well. Chairman Pell asked staff to please send the letter to him.

Staff also summarized the status of the HPC website. Staff indicated some graphics may change. Chairman Pell said the draft front page showed the Lamplighter pool on South Sixth Street, a County landmark. Some discussion occurred between Commissioner Brooks and Chairman Pell concerning the Lamplighter. Chairman Pell said the HPC recommended a landmark for the pool only. Staff discussed the agendas page, the farmhouse page, and some images. Several Commissioners commented on the website's design.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Additional Comments:** Commissioner Brooks asked about the pros and cons of landmarking. Chairman Pell said if a property is landmarked and the owner wants to make exterior changes, some actions are reviewed by the HPC. Commissioner Brooks asked if the owner would need permission, to which Commissioner Sims said a Certificate of Appropriateness is required. Commissioner Brooks asked if someone wanted to knock off the front porch on a landmark if that would require permission. Several Commissioners said if it is a landmark, then yes. Commissioner Brooks asked what makes something worthy of a landmark. Chairman Pell said it is subjective whether something is worthy of landmark status because of its significance. He said examples could include the last house or only house of a particular style or period. Chairman Pell also said landmarks could be significant if someone famous did something there, e.g. Vachel Lindsay writing a work at a particular location. Commissioner Sims said the legal answer is there are criteria in the ordinance; the useful answer is if [the HPC] believes something meets any of those criteria, it can be landmarked. Chairman Pell said a few landmarks are on the National Register. He said the Brunk Farmstead was made into a landmark because of its role in the early history of Sangamon County. Chairman Pell said many houses are acceptable to be on a survey. Commissioner Schackmann asked if the HPC ever said a house is worthy of being landmarked and the property owner says no it is not. Chairman Pell said the Power farm is on the National Register. However, it has suffered some theft and some tornado damage. He said the farmstead and the farmhouse are not landmarked, but the courthouse, where Lincoln tried a case is. Chairman Pell said in the not too distant future, the owner may consent to having the farmhouse

landmarked. Commissioner Brooks asked whether there is no landmarking unless people are interested. Commissioner Sims said unless there is owner consent there is no landmark. Chairman Pell said some historic preservation commissions can landmark without owner's consent. He said when the ordinance was passed the County Board would not back a landmark without owner's consent. Commissioner Sims said the City of Springfield requires owner's consent.

Several Commissioners discussed the Brunk farmstead and a fire that exposed the house's interior.

**Adjourn:** Chairman Pell entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Goza made a motion to adjourn the January meeting and Commissioner Schackmann seconded the motion. The voice vote to approve was unanimous and the meeting adjourned at 4:51 PM.

Respectively submitted,  
Steve Keenan