

Minutes of Meeting
Sangamon County Historic Preservation Commission
July 6, 2016

Members Present: Chuck Pell, Chairman
Bob Sherman, Vice Chairman
Mike Brooks
Jeanette Goza
Jerry Jacobson
Tina Lathan
James Schackmann

Members Absent: Aakash Raut, Dean Williams, Norm Sims

Staff Present: Steve Keenan

Call to Order: A quorum being present, Chairman Pell called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Pell entertained a motion to approve the June minutes. A motion to approve the June minutes as amended was made by Vice Chairman Sherman and was seconded by Commissioner Jacobson. The voice vote to approve was unanimous.

Chairman's Report/Comments: Chairman Pell summarized the oldest farmhouse event at the Sangamon County Fair. Chairman Pell and Commissioner Brooks discussed media coverage of the event. Some discussion ensued of photos taken by Chairman Pell of the houses and RPC staff of the final event. Additional discussion occurred amongst several Commissioners about potential survey sites. Later, Chairman Pell indicated he would send out letters of appreciation.

Committee Reports: Commissioner Jacobson presented the Oldest Farmhouse Committee report. He said the awarded house is likely the oldest farmhouse in Sangamon County. Commissioner Jacobson said it is owned by the Barringer family and is a log cabin covered with siding. He said there were seven recipients at the event with the Barringers receiving a handsome plaque. Commissioner Jacobson listed prominent attendees. He said there was media coverage. Commissioner Goza said approximately 35 people attended. Several Commissioners mentioned the event was a popular draw. Some discussion ensued about a picture taken by RPC staff of the owners. Chairman Pell mentioned an owner was interested in organizing a historic homes tour to raise funds for our organization. Vice Chairman Sherman discussed Mr. Barringer. Commissioner Jacobson said he inadvertently did not notify a few entrants of the event. He reported the Farmhouse Committee then voted to recommend its dissolution to the HPC Chair. Chairman Pell said the event was fun and now the group can think of something else to do.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Chairman Pell recognized Commissioner Jacobson to discuss certificates or plaques for landmarks. Commissioner Jacobson said there was discussion about certificates at a recent meeting. He said they could be an inexpensive way to highlight the County's landmarks. Some discussion ensued amongst Chairman Pell, Commissioner Jacobson, and Commissioner Brooks about additional funding sources. Commissioner Jacobson asked about Centennial Farms signs. Commissioner Brooks said Spinner Plastics indicated they could make signs in the future, if desired. Commissioner Jacobson asked Chairman Pell if there could be a Commissioner who

could look into this item. Chairman Pell said he would take it under advisement and then seek a volunteer(s).

Commissioner Jacobson said there are several sites that could possibly be added to the survey list for Sangamon County.

After considerable discussion, the consensus of the group was:

- Commissioner Lathan will provide townships of County National Register sites.
- Vice Chairman Sherman would try to survey the Barringer, Gisi, and potentially the Gibson properties.
- Commissioner Raut would try to survey the Cotton Hill [Marvin] and Rochester [Ramsey] Township entries.
- Commissioner Goza would try to survey the entries in Cartwright and Gardner Townships as indicated on the farmhouse entry spreadsheet. [Barringer and Gisi may need coordination between Vice Chairman Sherman and Commissioner Goza as they are in Gardner Township.]
- Commissioner Jacobson would try to landmark the Trapp house, owned by the Kilhoffers.

Chairman Pell said the Kilhoffer house has an original part on the south end from the 1850s and that it grew toward [Old Route 36] and became an Italianate house. He said there is a stair in a corner rather than a central stairway. Vice Chairman Sherman said corner stairs that make a turn are indications of an old house. Chairman Pell said the house probably did not look like it currently does until the 1880s. He said the Italianate style was common on the east coast in the 1830s and 1840s, but came later to central Illinois. Chairman Pell said the house is mostly preserved. Commissioner Brooks mentioned a family connection to the property. Chairman Pell asked Commissioner Brooks if he has any old family photos of the Kilhoffer residence he has shared with the owners. Commissioner Brooks mentioned there were some photos a sibling found of family members sitting in front of the house in the past. He said family lore mentions the house is a 12-mile house. Chairman Pell said 12-mile houses had food and drink, rest for the horses, and occasionally a room to stay overnight. Commissioner Brooks said it was probably on the [court] circuit that Lincoln rode.

Initial Recommendation for New Landmark Applications: None.

Chairman Pell asked when the County Board meeting is for the Buffalo Hart Presbyterian Church landmark. Staff said July 12 at 7:00 PM. Chairman Pell said he would attend the Board meeting. Commissioner Jacobson asked about discussion at the [Public Health, Solid Waste, and Zoning] Committee meeting. Chairman Pell said there was a brief discussion and that the Board seemed excited about the landmark. He said he felt it was an easy vote for them.

Member Reports: Commissioner Goza said the County Fair event was interesting.

Vice Chairman Sherman said he talked to two families about surveying two sites.

Commissioner Goza asked about establishing an oldest farmhouse tour. Chairman Pell said it has potential, but the logistics could be difficult. Commissioner Brooks suggested a small bus to take people to different sites with each site on the tour open for 30-45 minutes. Chairman Pell said the

media wanted to know what the next search would be. Vice Chairman Sherman said it takes work to write an agenda for a tour and has some cost for the riders, but that it can be fun.

Staff Reports: Staff mentioned new website content and there would be some new content added to the landmarks application. He said a new planner would start on July 25 and would likely start staffing the Historic Preservation Commission meetings in September.

Public Comment: None.

Additional Comments: None.

Adjourn: Chairman Pell entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Goza made a motion to adjourn the July meeting with Commissioner Lathan seconding the motion. The voice vote to approve was unanimous and the meeting adjourned at 4:49 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Steve Keenan