

Minutes of Meeting
Sangamon County Historic Preservation Commission
October 5, 2016

Members Present: Chuck Pell, Chairman
Mike Brooks
Jeanette Goza
Jerry Jacobson
Tina Lathan
Aakash Raut
Norm Sims
Dean Williams

Members Absent: Bob Sherman, James Schackmann

Staff Present: 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 September minutes. A motion to approve the September minutes was made by Commissioner Jacobson and was seconded by Commissioner Brooks. The voice vote to approve was unanimous.

Chairman's Report/Comments: Chairman Pell reported he prepared and gave a presentation for the King's Daughters Organization on October 4th about the HPC, the seven Sangamon County Landmarks, and the Oldest Farmhouse Project. Chairman Pell stated the presentation that he prepared could be improved and presented to various other groups to tell people about the HPC. Commissioner Sims stated many social and fraternal organizations are always looking for speakers, and presenting to other groups helps build a constituency for historic preservation and our work in general.

Chairman Pell reported during his report last meeting that Commissioner Brooks was performing surveys for two farmhouses in Cooper Township and asked Commissioner Brooks for an update. Commissioner Brooks stated he has identified three houses that he is completing surveys for and conducting research on that are all near his house on Roby Road south of Mechanicsburg. One house was previously the Bell Fountain Schoolhouse back in the 1800s and was remodeled into a residence. Just across the road is a single story house that may have been built around the 1890s; the current owner noticed dates marked on boards in the attic of the house while completing a remodel. Just south of those houses is an older two story house that Commissioner Brooks heard may have the potential for being built around the 1850s. Staff was able to show these houses on Google Maps and the Sangamon County Parcel Viewer. Chairman Pell, Commissioner Brooks, Commissioner Jacobson, and Commissioner Sims discussed these three houses and the potential of them being historic.

Committee Reports: None

Old Business: Sangamon County Barn Calendar: Commissioner Jacobson reported there are approximately 1,000 farms in Sangamon County and he received an estimate from Capitol Blue Print that printing 1,000 calendars would cost \$2,900. Commissioner Jacobson stated Kane County told him they were funded through a grant provided by a local river boat casino. Commissioner Jacobson, Commissioner Brooks, and Chairman Pell discussed whether the calendar would be distributed to Farm Bureau members. Chairman Pell stated the Commission may have to determine if they would like to give

a certain number of calendars away depending on who would be the sponsor(s) and then sell the balance of the calendars that would be printed. Chairman Pell stated if a committee is formed they would also have to determine if one photographer would take all the pictures or if multiple photographers would be utilized. Commissioner Brooks brought to the Commission's attention that not many people buy calendars anymore, and it may be more beneficial to create a Barns of Sangamon County book that could be sold for multiple years versus a calendar which could only be sold in the last half of 2017 and start of 2018. Chairman Pell suggested getting some feedback from the Farm Bureau and others as to whether a calendar would be of any interest. Chairman Pell stated before the next meeting Commission members interested in this project should step forward to be a part of a committee.

Oldest Farmhouse Surveys: Commissioner Lathan stated she was going to help Commissioner Goza by completing surveys for the farmhouses at 931 Wake Road and 1981 Yankee Town Road. Commissioner Goza would work on completing surveys for the other three farmhouses in her townships. Commissioner Jacobson already had completed a survey for the Kilhoffer farmhouse. Commissioner Raut reported he would work on the two farmhouse surveys in his townships.

Bolivia Road Bridge: Commissioner Jacobson asked Commissioner Brooks for a follow-up if he had contacted Tim Zahn about the Bolivia Road Bridge. Commissioner Brooks stated he had not had time to meet with Tim Zahn. Commissioner Jacobson had stated it was his understanding that no funding is currently available to build a new bridge or to move the bridge to a different location. Commissioner Sims confirmed that so far no funding is available to replace the bridge and no one has expressed interest in taking the bridge and no funding has been made available to move it.

New Business: Commissioner Jacobson brought to the attention of the Commission that the Illinois Association of Historic Preservation Commissions is accepting nominations for the 2016 Illinois Commission Excellence Award, and with the completion of the Oldest Farmhouse Project; it would be a great time to nominate the Commission for this award. Chairman Pell stated he would submit a nomination by the October 15, 2016 deadline.

Initial Recommendation for New Landmark Applications: None

Member Reports: Commissioner Williams presented a completed version of the proclamation for the Buffalo Heart Presbyterian Church Landmark completed by Commissioner Goza. Commissioner Williams wanted to know when would be the best time to present this proclamation to the church. Chairman Pell stated to let the church pick a Sunday and as many Commission members that are available will attend to present the church with the proclamation.

Staff Reports: None

Public Comment: None

Additional Comments: Commissioner Jacobson asked if anyone knew who took Catherine O'Connor's position for outreach at IHPA and no one knew for sure.

Adjourn: Chairman Pell entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Goza made a motion to adjourn the October meeting with Commissioner Williams seconding the motion. The voice vote to approve was unanimous and the meeting adjourned at 4:54 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Emily Prather
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