

Kankakee County Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
Summary of Minutes
February 1, 2016

Members Present:

Mardene Hinton (chair), John Adams, Jane Johnson, Terry Johnston, Jim Paul, Ron Shank, and Pat Wagner.

Also Present:

Michelle Sadler, Shari Ebert, and Norma Meier.

Members Absent:

Neely Provost-Regas.

Quorum Present.

Ms. Hinton called the meeting to order at 3:58 pm in the second floor conference room of the Kankakee County Building.

Public Comments:

None.

Minutes:

Mr. Johnston moved that the minutes of the January 4, 2016 meeting be approved with corrections noted. Mr. Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Staff Report:

Regarding the KCHP Ordinance agenda item, Ms. Sadler and Ms. Hinton will implement the suggested editorial changes. Regarding the Web Site Updates agenda item, Ms. Hinton stated that she will create a flash drive with agendas, minutes, the past two newsletters, all forum invitations, the French-Canadian Heritage Corridor document, and update of commission members. With the information conveniently gathered on this flash drive, it is hoped that Mr. Skimmerhorn can more quickly update the commission's website. Dr. Paul made a special request to Ms. Sadler: creation of the link to the "French-Canadian Heritage Corridor" document on the website so that the link can be placed in the Introduction to the *Four Walking Tours of Historic Bourbonnais* that he is writing for the April 19 Bourbonnais public forum. Regarding the Preservation Commission Openings agenda item, Ms. Sadler stated that after the vacant positions are accepted by the PZA and County Board, applicants may apply for the open positions. Ms. Hinton stated that she will post the open commission attorney position on Facebook.

Historic Landmarks:

Ms. Hinton mentioned that several landmark possibilities are being considered: the Pope Brace Building, Momence Cemetery, and the Wiley Family Stonebrook Farm. Mr. Shank complimented Ms. Hinton on her Facebook publicity of the commission's activities.

CLG Grant

Under Save the Date Invitations agenda item, Ms. Hinton said that these notices have gone out to the community in the form of invitation letters, newspaper articles, radio and community access cable TV announcements, and the commission's Facebook page. Under the Dr. Paul's "Four Walking Tours of

Historic Bourbonnais, IL” agenda item, Dr. Paul presented a facsimile draft booklet of the walking tours. He mentioned that he was soliciting bids for the printing cost of the booklet and the “French-Canadian Heritage Corridor” rack cards. Ms. Hinton recommended that the Kankakee County Convention and Visitors Bureau be approached to pay for the rack cards. Ms. Sadler said that her staff could print, collate, and bind the walking tour booklet so that it would be ready for distribution at the Bourbonnais Township public forum on April 19. Ms. Hinton stated that this would be paid for by the Foundation Grant. Accordingly, Dr. Paul made a motion that Ms. Sadler’s staff print, collage, and bind 75 copies of the walking tour booklet for distribution at the April 19 public forum. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried. The public will not need to pay for these first 75 copies.

Regarding the Confirmed Village Meetings agenda item 1) Momence, Jan. 26, 2016, Ms. Hinton thanked Ms. Wagner for the summary of the forum. She said that Janine Loftus had stated that it was unclear what we are supposed to do. Mr. Ken Itle has given us better direction for the next forum. Ms. Loftus suggested that our discussion groups split up the tasks. Ms. Hinton proposed the following reorganization of the forums: 1) put the signup sheets at the individual tables because we need better registration information; 2) ask participants to first complete the questionnaire, identify the landmark structures, and then talk about goals; 3) try to place at least two persons from each township at the same table; and 4) door prizes will be given out before the final discussion. Mr. Adams volunteered to bring Platt books to the Manteno forum. Mr. Johnston recommended tape recording the whole session. Ms. Wagner said she did that at the Momence forum, but it was hard to understand the discussion conversation because of so much background noise. Regarding item 2) Manteno, Feb. 2, 7:00 pm, Leo Hassett Community Center, 211 N. Main Street, Ms. Hinton requested that the commissioners and steering committee members arrive at 6:30 pm to help set up. She said that the reminders were sent out this morning and also posted on Facebook. Regarding the remaining forums at Aroma Park, Feb.23, 7:00 pm; Herscher, March 22, 7:00 pm; Bourbonnais, April 19, 7:00 pm; and Kankakee, May 10, 6:30 pm; the commissioners and steering committee members in charge will check on availability of tables at each forum venue. If tables are needed, Mr. Adams volunteered to bring his from home. For those forum participants who wish to see model preservation plans, Ms. Johnson and Ms. Wagner recommended related websites that feature the preservation plans of Carbondale and Columbia, Illinois.

New Grant Opportunities

Under the 2016 CLG Grant—Deadline February 29, 2016 agenda item, Ms. Hinton stated that Mr. Itle recommended that the commission wait one year before applying for a new CLG Grant. He advised that our current CLG grant would not wrap up until September. After discussion, Mr. Johnston moved that the commission wait one year before applying for a new CLG Grant. Ms. Wagner seconded the motion. Motion carried. Under the 2016 Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley agenda item, the commission decided not to pursue this grant.

Committee Reports:

Ms. Johnson of the Architectural Review Committee stated that Mr. Mark Wakat is still working on the historic landmark prequalification nomination for the Pope Brace Building, 197 S. West Avenue in Kankakee. Regarding the Education Committee, Ms. Hinton thanked the commissioners for helping to disseminate the winter issue of *The Preservationist*. Mr. Shank, reported on the January 21 meeting of the Education Committee. At that meeting, Dr. Charles Balesi presented his idea of “history fairs” for eighth graders through senior high school. The committee decided to pursue this idea with county 4-H members. Mr. Adams is a leader in 4-H. He stated that he would seek approval from the Arts and Crafts

Committee in 4-H. If the committee approves the idea, he will submit a curriculum for each level: 8-11 year olds, 12-14 year olds, and 15-18 year olds. He thinks that the younger group can learn stories from their grandparents about farming and specific (maybe family) farms and the older groups can interview relatives and other farm owners, take photographs, and write accounts of the specific farm's architecture. The individuals and groups would have an incentive to compete against each other since the University of Illinois Extension has a system in place that offers trophies for "best in the county". A decision could be reached in September 2016 to pursue this idea for next year. There are over 400 youth in the county 4-H. After discussion about whether the commission's mission was preservation or education, Mr. Johnston moved that the commission support Mr. Adams in continuing to pursue support by the 4-H Arts and Crafts Committee and bring a curriculum to the commission for approval. Ms. Wagner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Under the Letter to the Illinois Nature Conservancy by Dr. Charles Balesi agenda item, Dr. Paul thanked Dr. Balesi for writing the letter which resulted in a response from Fran Harty, the Nature Conservancy's Director of Terrestrial Conservation. The Nature Conservancy's letter explained in detail the agencies work in Kankakee County, in particular Pembroke Township. Dr. Balesi wrote the letter because this issue was discussed at length at the Momence public forum. Ms. Hinton stated that the commission would wait until after all public forums before addressing this issue further.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday March 7, 2016 at 4 pm.

Adjournment:

Mr. Shank made a motion to adjourn at 5:20 pm. Mr. Johnston seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Jim Paul, Secretary