

**Kankakee County Historic Preservation Commission Meeting**  
**Summary of Minutes**  
**March 7, 2016**

**Members Present:**

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

**Also Present:**

Doug Brite and Hollice Clark.

**Member Absent:**

Pat Wagner.

**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:**

Doug Brite and Hollice Clark presented the Bourbonnais Township Park District's plans for restoring the garage and modifying the entry to the farm house on the Durham-Perry Farmstead. The garage dates back to 1922 and is in need of rehabilitation. The entry modifications to the farm house would replace the existing ramp. The commission asked the Architectural Review Committee for a decision on this matter next month.

**Minutes:**

Mr. Johnston moved that the minutes of the February 1, 2016 meeting be approved with corrections noted. Mr. Shank seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Staff Report:**

Regarding the Website Update agenda item, Ms. Hinton stated that all the newsletters were now linked to the commission's website, and that Mr. Skimerhorn will soon link the meeting agendas, minutes, French-Canadian Heritage Corridor document, and update the commissioners. Ms. Hinton volunteered to modify the French-Canadian Heritage Corridor document as needed so that Mr. Skimerhorn could complete the linkage to the internet. There was nothing new to report under the Preservation Commission Openings agenda item.

**Historic Landmarks:**

Ms. Johnson stated that she learned from Mr. Jacob Carlile that the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency will look into his proposal for a Kankakee Historic District, but that the size would be smaller.

**CLG Grant—Village Forums**

The commission reviewed the Manteno and Aroma Park public forums. Ms. Hinton stated that she has completed the publicity for the upcoming Herscher and Bourbonnais forums. The commission reviewed plans for the Herscher forum. Regarding the printing of the *Four Walking Tours of Historic Bourbonnais* agenda item, Dr. Paul requested that 20 advance copies of the 75 booklets—to be printed before the April 19 Bourbonnais Township forum—be set aside for him to distribute to each commissioner and steering committee member, Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society, Kankakee County Historical Society, Mayor

Paul Schore, Bourbonnais Community Relations Laurie Cyr, Bourbonnais Village Administrator Mike Van Mill, Bourbonnais Building Inspector Vicki Senesac, Dr. John Bowling, *The Herald, The Daily Journal*, Kankakee County Convention and Visitors Bureau, State Representative Kate Cloonen, and Father Richard Pighini. He also asked permission to visit with Dr. Bowling about possible funding resources (including ONU and the Chicago Bears) for restoring the first Bourbonnais log school house (1837-48). The commission agreed to both of his requests. Regarding the Confirmed Village Meetings agenda item 1) Herscher, March 22, 7:00 pm; Bourbonnais, 2) April 19, 7:00 pm; and 3) Kankakee, May 10, 6:30 pm (4<sup>th</sup> floor), the commissioners and steering committee members in charge will check on availability of tables at each forum venue. Ms. Johnson mentioned the importance of the National Park Services web site for historic restoration involving utilities.

### **Committee Reports:**

Under the Architectural Review Committee, Mr. Johnston stated that there was nothing new to report. Under the Education Committee agenda item, Mr. Adams reported on his proposal for the Kankakee County 4-H Project: Local History. The participants will be divided into three age groups. The youngest group will display a picture of a historic structure and describe its significance for his/her family. The middle age group will display a photograph of a historic structure that is at least 75 years old (with location and date of construction) along with a map and explanation of its significance. The oldest group will display photographs and/or artifacts related to a structure or site of at least 100 years old, along with a computer generated map, architectural design, date of construction, and its significance. There will be at least three teams to allow competition. Winners will be announced at the Kankakee County 4-H Recognition Program and the winning team will be given an award or trophy. All teams' displays will be exhibited at the county fair. Parents will also be encouraged to participate in the research. The commission suggested that money from a Community Foundation Grant may provide a cash prize. Mr. Adams has already gained the support of one 4-H committee. Mr. Adams presented a motion to pursue this proposal. Mr. Johnston seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Old Business:**

Ms. Hinton suggested that since Phil Angelo's Sign Committee was inactive, that our commission should pursue the creation of county landmark signs, possibly financed through a 2017 Community Foundation Grant. Many historic signs are gone or deteriorating. The signs at McHie Ford on Sandbar Road and Aroma Park were mentioned specifically. Commissioners were asked to identify interested sign vendors.

### **New Business:**

Under the Announcements agenda item, Ms. Hinton drew the commission's attention to a request in last weekend's edition of *The Daily Journal* about individuals soliciting others to join a future Pembroke/Hopkins Park Historical Society.

### **Next Meeting**

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

### **Adjournment:**

Mr. Shank made a motion to adjourn at 5:08 pm. Mr. Johnston seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dr. Jim Paul, Secretary