

Kankakee County Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
Summary of Minutes
August 3, 2015

Members Present:

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

Also Present:

Michelle Sadler.

Member Absent:

Neely Provost-Regas, Ron Shank, and Pat Wagner.

Quorum Present.

Ms. Hinton called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm in the second floor conference room of the Kankakee County Building.

Public Comments:

None.

Minutes:

Mr. Johnston moved that the July 13, 2015 minutes be approved. Mr. Kinzinger seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Staff Report:

Regarding the CLG Grant Status agenda item, Ms. Sadler stated that she is waiting for the State Attorney's office to reach agreement with Mr. Ken Itle who will serve as consultant for the grant. Under Planning for the CLG Grant—Ken Itle agenda item, Ms. Sadler has not been able to contact Mr. Itle. Nothing has been signed to date. Ms. Hinton suggested that even though this was the situation, the grant completion is due in August 2016. The commission agreed to start work on the histories of each Kankakee County township and keep track of the "in kind" work on the "Volunteer Service Time Report" worksheets. The commissioners divided up the township histories accordingly: Mr. Johnston—Rockville and Pembroke, Dr. Paul—Bourbonnais, Mr. Adams—Aroma and Otto, Ms. Hinton—Limestone and Momence, and Ms. Johnson—Geneer and Yellowhead.

Regarding the Intergovernmental Agreement Status – City of Kankakee issue, Ms. Sadler stated that the agreement has been approved by the PZA, and will go to the County Board for approval on Tuesday August 11.

Historic Landmark:

Ms. Johnson said that she had talked to Mr. Curl. She said that if the Reddick Fire Protection District dissolves, then the Reddick High School Alumni Association may purchase the gymnasium.

Intergovernmental Agreements with Villages/Municipalities

Regarding the Intergovernmental Agreements with Villages/Municipalities agenda item, Ms. Hinton stated that this effort can count toward the commissioners' hours in the CLG Grant. Two Intergovernmental Agreements are in force to date: Bourbonnais and Kankakee. She then asked the commission about what was the best way to approach the remaining mayors and village presidents. The commission agreed that the best approach would be to go through the local historical societies. The commission agreed to start the process with a letter to the historical societies asking for a contact person's name. Mr. Kinzinger agreed to create this invitation letter. The historical societies identified other than the Kankakee County Historical Society and the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society were: Bradley, Herscher, Bonfield, Essex, Grant Park, Manteno, Chebanse, and possibly St. Anne.

Committee Reports:

Under the Ordinance Review of Draft for Final Approval agenda item, Mr. Johnston moved to approve the final draft. Mr. Adams seconded the motion. The motion was called: 4 votes “yes”, 1 vote “present”, and 1 vote “no”. Motion carried. The commission thanked Ms. Hinton for her work in editing and rewriting the approved changes in the ordinance.

Regarding the Phil Angelo’s Historic Tourism Plan agenda item, nothing new was reported.

Regarding the Architectural Review Committee report, there was no report on the committee guidelines. As the next part of the committee’s report, Mr. Johnston moved to recommend a hearing on the Limestone Township Cemetery county historic landmark status. Mr. Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried. The hearing will be scheduled at 3:30 pm on Monday September 14, 2015. In the discussion of this item, Ms. Hinton stated that grave markers older than 50 years are historical. Some of these markers are falling over, and this is of concern to the commission.

In the Education Committee report, in Mr. Shank’s absence Dr. Paul summarized the committee’s Thursday July 30, 2015 4:00 pm meeting: 1) Ms. Hinton volunteered to create a rack card about the French-Canadian Heritage Corridor and request the Kankakee County Convention and Visitors Bureau to print and distribute the cards; 2) the committee will ask Ms. Sadler to link the commission’s historical overview document about the French-Canadian Heritage Corridor (written by Dr. Paul) on the commission’s website; 3) Ms. Hinton volunteered to create a commission newsletter entitled *The Preservationist* from submitted commissioner’s articles; and 4) Dr. Paul will ask Kankakee Community College to offer again his Lifelong Learning course “The Kankakee River Valley Pioneers” in April 2016—as part of a future project.

Dr. Paul also mentioned the results of his meeting with Larry Williams, executive director of the Kankakee County Convention and Visitors Bureau, on July 17. Mr. Williams said that he would put the French-Canadian Heritage Corridor document on the KCCVB website. Dr. Paul gave him a copy of *Current Historic Homes, Buildings, Sites, and Exhibits in Bourbonnais and Rockville Townships (Kankakee County)*. Mr. Williams stated that he would put a bid out to print a couple of hundred booklets of this item. He asked the commission to consider where the booklets could be distributed—from at least four sites, including the Visitors Center.

Old Business:

No old business was discussed.

New Business:

Under Announcements, Dr. Paul summarized the Interstate 57 “French-Canadian Heritage Corridors” signs official unveiling ceremony at the Letourneau Home/Museum on Wednesday July 29 at 1:30 pm. He will bring the House Resolution 0217 (which adopted the signs and presented to the commission by Illinois State Representative Kate Cloonen) to Ms. Sadler for framing and hanging on the commission’s wall in the Planning Department.

Ms. Johnston mentioned her efforts to oppose the zoning in Momence for a Casey’s to be built. She also stated that the St. Patrick’s Academy may be considered a complex or site instead of a district.

Next Meeting will be on September 14, 2015 at 4:00 pm.

Adjournment:

Mr. Johnson made a motion to adjourn at 5:05 pm. Mr. Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Jim Paul, Secretary