

**Boone County Historic Preservation Review Board
Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2020
4:00 PM**

The Boone County Historic Preservation Review Board held their monthly meeting on the above date via video teleconference using the Zoom online platform. The meeting was conducted pursuant to KRS 61.826, Kentucky Senate Bill 150 and OAG 20-05 and was necessitated by the state of emergency regarding the threats to public health presented by the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

- I. **Call to Order.** There being a quorum of the membership present, Chair Pat Wingo called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

- II. **Roll Call.** Review Board members present were Chair Pat Wingo, Vice-Chair Bridget Striker, Pat Berry, Lisa Hoffman, Dr. Eric Jackson, and Tom Schiffer. Also present was Matt Becher representing the Staff of the Boone County Planning Commission.

- III. **Approval of Minutes.** Mr. Berry moved to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2020, Review Board business as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Striker and approved unanimously.

- IV. **Items for Discussion and/or Action**
 1. **Status of Boone County Zoning Update & Graves Road Interchange Study updates.** Mr. Becher noted that there have been no significant new developments since the board's May meeting and that the timelines for both projects remain on track for completion in 2020. He added that construction on the new I-275 interchange at Graves Road has ramped up quite a bit. Progress is quite visible when driving through the work area on I-275.

 2. **Finalized Review Board 2020 Action Plan.** Mr. Becher stated that the plan was finalized at the May meeting and included in this month's packet to ensure everyone had a copy.

 3. **Historic Boone County Column Articles.** Ms. Wingo indicated that she and Ms. Hoffman are working on this together. Mr. Becher emailed them over 100 articles from the monthly column that ran from 2006 to 2016 to evaluate for potential reuse in current media. Ms. Wingo said they would evaluate and categorize them by topic, potential date, extent to which revisions may be required, etc. As for potential media outlets, Ms. Wingo said the County's weekly CERKL newsletter is an obvious choice. *River City News* and the *Northern Kentucky Tribune* also have potential, although she has not yet spoken with anyone at either paper. Mr. Becher interjected that each column should be about 450 words, a length specified by *The Boone County Recorder* when the series began. He also shared a directory listing of the articles on his screen and briefly described the range of authors and topics.

4. 2019-2020 Projects: KHS Historical Markers, Old Burlington Cemetery.

Mr. Becher reported that the invoices for iron fence repair at Old Burlington Cemetery (\$680) and the Old Courthouse highway marker (\$3,000) have been submitted to County Finance. This leaves up to \$1,320 for the proposed Florence Baptist Church highway marker. Mr. Schiffer commented that the Boone County Historical Society (BCHS) previously approved helping to fund the Baptist Church marker, but will meet next week to discuss an amount. Ms. Wingo said the City of Florence paid the Kentucky Historical Society's \$3,000 invoice for the marker and sent BCHS President Betsy Conrad a request for a contribution of \$395, as she knew that amount had been discussed before. Mr. Becher added that the remaining balance of the marker invoice after the \$395 and Review Board's \$1,320 contributions would be \$1,285. Finally, Mr. Becher informed the board that the balance of the Old Burlington Cemetery Trust fund managed by County Finance currently stands at \$24,469. It is accruing about \$16 per month from the 0.9% interest rate. He added that the fund is still incorrectly titled Bullittsville Cemetery Trust on the BB&T Bank statements, an error he has reported to the Finance Dept.

- 5. Potential Future CLG Projects.** Mr. Becher stated he has not heard whether Fiscal Court will allocate any funds to the Review Board for preservation projects in FY 2020-2021, but it is wise to plan for it regardless. One potential project brought up at the January retreat was a signage program for small family cemeteries. At that time, a quick list of about 10 cemeteries was drafted. Ms. Striker added that staff at the Kentucky Heritage Council is very interested in adding African-American resources to the National Register. Ms. Striker discussed the possibility of doing a Multiple Properties listing for a series of Boone County African-American churches and cemeteries. The Review Board's annual allocation could be leveraged against other private sources to come up with the necessary matching funds for a Federal Survey and Planning Grant for nominations. The project would have to be designed ahead of time so this is not something that would be funded until the 2021-2022 budget cycle. Mr. Becher asked if the labor would come from students, library personnel, consultants are a combination. Ms. Striker replied it would be best to retain a professional with considerable National Register experience for such a project, if funding is adequate. The library has already completed much of the necessary research so the real work would be preparing and presenting the nomination. Mr. Becher added that so many of Boone County's potentially eligible National Register historic structures have already been put on the register, that there is very little "low hanging fruit" left to list. The only realistic opportunities left are in districts or multiple properties listings. To date, African-American resources have been woefully underrepresented so this is an ideal project in many ways. Ms. Striker commented that having the National Register listings complete is the first essential step in taking advantage of future funding through other programs, Federal and otherwise. Wrapping up, Ms. Wingo suggested planning on the

cemetery signage program and asked board members to think of other projects. She asked Mr. Becher whether the County Sign Shop could make and install such signs. He indicated that it depends on what else is underway. For example, it would have been very difficult to get anything not related to the COVID pandemic made in March or April.

6. **Local Historic Preservation Survey.** Mr. Becher reminded everyone that this topic was proposed at the January retreat and it is about an opinion survey rather than a survey of sites or buildings. It was put on the June agenda in hopes that the State CLG Coordinator Vicki Birenberg would be available for the meeting, but she could not make it. Ms. Striker stated that she has drafted up some possible questions, which she will forward to Mr. Becher, should he care to comment and/or send to Ms. Birenberg. She is currently thinking that a series of survey that “drill down” from broader to more defined topics relating to local history and preservation may be appropriate. These surveys would both gather information from and educate the public. Ms. Striker said she would email the questions to Mr. Becher.

7. **Upcoming Review Board Meeting Schedule and Procedures.** Mr. Becher noted that the board typically does not meet in July but the March and April meetings were canceled due to the pandemic. If the board does meet in July, it would be on Thursday the 9th. One potential problem is that the board may be required to hold meetings in person beginning July 1. Ms. Striker has already indicated that she could not attend an in-person meeting just yet and Mr. Becher thinks that may be the case with Ms. Birenberg at the KHC. After some additional discussion, Ms. Wingo suggested assessing Ms. Birenberg’s availability for an in-person meeting as step 1. If she cannot attend then Mr. Becher can look into the legality of doing another distance meeting via the Zoom platform. Mr. Becher agreed and noted that the board is not scheduled to meet in August. Its next scheduled meeting on September 10 will almost certainly be in-person.

V. Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, Ms. Wingo asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Schiffer made the motion to adjourn at 4:40 PM. Ms. Striker seconded and all agreed. The next business meeting of the Historic Preservation Review Board will be July 9, 2020, 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Becher, Rural/Open Space Planner
Boone County Planning Commission

Thomas Schiffer, Recording Secretary

Pat Wingo, Chair
Boone County Historic Preservation Review Board

Date