

**Boone County Historic Preservation Review Board
Meeting Minutes
October 10, 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 4:02 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 were Assistant County Administrator Matthew Webster, Boone County Planning Commission staff member Matt Becher and resident Joan Holladay

- III. **Approval of Minutes.** Ms. Striker moved to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2020, Review Board business as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hoffman and approved unanimously.

- IV. **Items for Discussion and/or Action**
 1. **Boone County Zoning Code & Graves Road Interchange Study updates.** Mr. Becher reported that the Zoning update remains on track for completion by the end of 2020. Mr. Becher noted that the Graves Road study should also be done by year's end and that a complete draft is online and available for review/comment by the public. Staff is presenting to the project stakeholders group later in the evening and will then to the Planning Commission's Long Range Committee. A public hearing will likely not be held until December. The draft is available for review on the main page of the Planning Commission website.

 2. **CLG FY 2020-2021 Continuing Education.** Mr. Becher noted that the annual credit period began again October 1 and will run through next Sept 30. Ms. Wingo and Ms. Striker indicated that they had both already signed up for the Friday webinar relating to preservation of African-American Historic Places.

 3. **Local Historic Preservation Public Survey.** Mr. Becher brought up the website showing survey results to date. It has had 32 responses so far after about 10 days of availability. He indicated that it would be available to CERKL newsletter subscribers for several more weeks. He briefly reviewed the results to date and said it would be revisited at the November meeting.

4. **Historic Boone County Column Articles.** Mr. Becher stated that his article titled “A Profound Sense of History” article went out via CERKL the same time as the public survey. It has had just over 6.5% engagement response so far, which is better than average. He noted that the original version appeared in The Recorder in 2009 and that Ms. Wingo edited this version for republication. As with the survey, it will continue going out to CERKL subscribers for a couple of weeks. Ms. Wingo indicated that she would get the next article for republication to Mr. Becher in the next week or two. Mr. Becher replied that Chris Courtney in the Judge-Executive’s office is happy to put anything of this type out through CERKL. Ms. Wingo noted that it is something she and Ms. Hoffman hope to do monthly.

5. **2019-2020 Project: KHS Historical Markers.** Mr. Becher indicated that he had not heard anything since the last meeting from Kentucky Historical Society staff about the status of the Old Boone County Courthouse and Florence Baptist Church roadside markers. He expects that one day they will reach out with draft text for the markers, but has no idea when that may happen. Mr. Webster added that County Administration has discussed and is amenable to the idea of putting the new Courthouse marker in the location of the current Burlington/Craig’s Camp on the Courthouse grounds and moving the latter across the street to the newly created greenspace on the south side of Burlington Pike. Mr. Becher briefly explained the idea to the concept to the board, which was proposed by Steve Conrad several weeks ago as a solution to the potential conflict of having two markers on the same site.

6. **2020-2021 Funding and Potential Projects.** Mr. Becher shared a spreadsheet of the **Cemetery Signage Project** on his screen. The nine cemeteries at the top are those for which he has obtained (1) property owner permission for signage and (2) pricing from FastSigns in Florence for installation of an 18x24-inch or 24x36-inch sign. He asked whether the board felt the total cost of \$2,063.56 for nine signs installed sounded reasonable. Ms. Wingo stated that it looked good and was close to the \$2,000 range of cost discussed previously. Everyone agreed that the project should move forward. At Mr. Becher’s request, Mr. Webster briefly discussed the County’s vendor billing and purchase order procedure. There being no further comment or questions, Mr. Becher moved on to the **Renaker House Bronze Plaque** project discussed at the September, when the board agreed to (1) replace that plaque due to a misspelling and (2) offer to purchase a plaque for the 1939 Boone County Recorder building. Mr. Becher indicated that he has received no reply to two calls to the building owners (Rassenfoss Family Dentistry) and asked whether he should move on to another property. Ms. Wingo suggested sending a letter and giving them a deadline to reply before moving on. Mr. Becher agreed and said they should hopefully be able to wrap up ordering plaques at the November meeting with estimated cost for two plaques of just over \$1,000. Finally, Mr. Becher reminded everyone of the email he sent a week after the last meeting

about the **Benjamin Cleek Headstone**, which detailed the bizarre story of its discovery in the trunk of a junked car at a salvage lot in 2001. The man who found it traded a 30-round ammo clip for the large marble marker and it has been sitting in his front yard in Fairfield, OH, ever since. In 2013, the Cleek Cemetery was nearly destroyed by construction of a house in the Triple Crown subdivision, in large part because the headstones had all been removed. The graves were eventually identified and the remains of several individuals (including Benjamin Cleek) relocated to Richwood Presbyterian Cemetery. Mr. Becher has since retrieved Benjamin's headstone from Fairfield, taken it to Richwood Presbyterian and met there with cemetery sexton (Tim Stephens) about installing it in the family plot established in 2013. Mr. Stephens quoted a price of \$180. Mr. Becher will contact the archaeologists who did the work to see if they recorded which of the six burial vaults contained Benjamin's presumed remains. Board members agreed that having the gravestone installed was well worth the \$180 expense. Ms. Wingo added that a news article might lead to the discovery of additional markers removed from the original cemetery location. Mr. Becher summarized by noting that the current total for the projects so far slated for FY 2020-2021 will be approximately \$3,250, leaving \$1,750 for other initiatives. Ms. Striker reiterated that she could put any leftover FY 2020-2021 funds toward research for the **African-American Multiple Properties National Register Nomination** planned for a future budget year.

7. **Diversity & Inclusivity in Historic Sites/Preservation.** Mr. Becher noted that Ms. Striker asked that this discussion topic be included on the October agenda. Ms. Striker stated that while there is a growing number of African-American sites in Boone County, there is no one working on the diversity/inclusivity issues necessary to appropriately preserve and interpret them. She and Dr. Jackson propose bringing in a professional in this area to provide training. As an example, she noted that Dinsmore Homestead is significant to local African-American heritage, but some members of the community feel this aspect of the site has not yet been appropriately interpreted. Dr. Jackson added that they are trying to offer assistance. Ms. Striker continued that this is an opportunity for everyone to look countywide at how resources can be sensitively preserved and interpreted. She asked if everyone had seen Brent Leggs' publication Preserving African American Historic Places sent with the monthly packets. Mr. Becher shared his screen showing the front cover of the document. While working at the Kentucky Heritage Council. Mr. Leggs headed up the Rosenwald Schools project in 2004. He now works for the National Trust for Historic Preservation and she wants to bring him to Boone County to provide training. She added that the NKY African-American Heritage Task Force might also be helpful, perhaps as part of a seminar held at Dinsmore, the Main Library or elsewhere. This should help with preservation & interpretation of other key places such as the Florence Baptist Church, Florence Cemetery, African-American churches in Burlington and Walton, etc. She added that while she believes the board and members have good intentions, it would be helpful to know how the African-

American voice wants to be represented in the county. Ms. Wingo agreed, adding that she met Ms. Byrd Wood, co-author of the study with Mr. Leggs, at a National Trust conference some years ago and understands that she is a well-respected national preservationist. In addition to Mr. Leggs, Ms. Striker stated that the National Park Service also recommended Dr. Cheryl Laroche, a well-known and widely respected archaeologist who specializes in interpreting African-American culture. Dr. Jackson added that Kentucky Heritage Council National Register Coordinator Lisa Thompson wants to increase documentation of African-American sites statewide and is looking specifically at Boone County. This ties directly into the board's April discussion about an African-American National Register project in 2021-2022. This could include revising existing National Register forms for sites like Dinsmore, where the African-American component was not originally cited as an area of significance. Replying to Mr. Becher's question, Ms. Striker and Dr. Jackson replied that Mr. Leggs now resides in Washington, DC, rather than Kentucky. Ms. Striker hopes to apply for a National Trust grant to fund seminar expenses. There being no further questions, Ms. Wingo concluded saying that we will revisit the topic in November.

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 4:52 PM. Dr. Jackson seconded and all agreed. The next business meeting of the Historic Preservation Review Board will be November 12, 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