

Boone County Historic Preservation Review Board
Meeting Minutes
November 12, 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, Pat Fox, Lisa Hoffman, Dr. Eric Jackson and Tom Schiffer. Also present were Assistant County Administrator Matthew Webster and Boone County Planning Commission staff member Matt Becher.

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

- IV. **Items for Discussion and/or Action**
 1. **Graves Road Interchange Study Update.** Mr. Becher reported that the full draft of the Graves Road study is now online and available for review/comment by the public. The Planning Commission has set a virtual public hearing date for the draft plan of December 16. The plan may be revised thereafter depending on comments received and will hopefully go back to the full planning commission for a vote by early February. Ms. Fox asked whether there had been many complaints from residents along Graves Road. Mr. Becher replied that most of the initial complaints came from people living on Watts Road, some of whom will be impacted by property loss and/or future road noise. Other concerns have been relative to how property will be rezoned – e.g., acreage of residential versus business park. Most of those issues have already been addressed.

 2. **Ohio River Corridor Collaborative.** Mr. Becher advised that this initiative has come back up after a 15-year hiatus. He and Ms. Striker have both been involved in the initial meetings. He is hopeful that it will be more persistent this time. Ms. Striker has begun working with the Planning Commission's GIS division to populate their database with points of historical interest. Mr. Becher will check with them to see what he can add. The initial goal is just to build a database of known sites, events and even tourist resources along and near the river. Those data could ultimately be used to build tours, websites and other products useable in heritage tourism. The group is also working on an application for technical support from the National Park Service. Ms.

Striker added that information in the Library's "Lost River Towns" book will be added to the database. Ms. Fox mentioned the Lewis & Clark trail and commemoration of 2003 and Mr. Becher commented that Brewster Rhoads and others are again involved and aware of the connection. He will keep the board apprised of any developments as things move along.

3. **Local Historic Preservation Public Survey.** Mr. Becher brought up the website showing survey results after six weeks of availability online. To date, 73 people have responded. He briefly reviewed the results to date, noting there are no big surprises. Most respondents are familiar with the well-known historic sites of Dinsmore, Rabbit Hash, Big Bone Lick and the Gaines Tavern. He questioned the board about how they wanted to proceed with survey work, such as doing something specific with this data set or creating another more targeted survey. After some discussion, Ms. Wingo asked that results of this initial survey be sent to the board ahead of the January retreat, when results and future survey(s) will be revisited.
4. **Historic Boone County Column Articles.** Mr. Becher noted his old "A Profound Sense of History" article went out via CERKL the same time as the public survey. Chris Courtney was going to put out the second article - about the Boone-Kenton County Line boundary markers - today. The next article Ms. Wingo has selected - about builder George Nicholson - will likely go out in late November. Ms. Wingo commented that she plans to circulate some of the other articles to their authors at the January meeting for any needed revisions such as change in building tenant since the date of initial publication. There are several articles each from Mr. Becher, Tom Schiffer, Bob Schrage and Don Clare. Mr. Becher added that he would be willing to ask Sue Clare if they could reuse Don's articles if the board wanted to do so. Ms. Striker noted that Callie Clare has a PhD in History and could certainly contribute to that effort. Ms. Wingo asked that the topic be added to the January retreat agenda for further discussion.
5. **2019-2020 Project: KHS Historical Markers.** Mr. Becher stated that this item would remain on the agenda until complete, although he has not received an update from the state since the last meeting. Ms. Striker commented that copy has been written for the Florence Baptist Church roadside marker. She has been working with both the City of Florence and Kentucky Historical Society to revise the text. Ms. Wingo added that City Events Coordinator Vanessa Lenear would likely handle the dedication event, once the marker is actually complete. She took care of the event for the Stringtown marker when it was installed in the Triangle Park on Main Street.
6. **2020-2021 Funding and Potential Projects.** Mr. Becher noted that he completed the background work for the **Cemetery Signage Project** and submitted the order to FastSigns per the \$2,063.56 quote for nine signs approved by the board in October. He expects that all will be installed within

the next few weeks and will report back to the board afterwards. Regarding the **Renaker House and Boone County Recorder Bronze Plaques** project, Mr. Becher pulled up a proof of the plaques sent by Erie Landmark for review. Everyone agreed they look fine. He then noted that he had delayed approving the order because he was contacted by the owner of the c. 1850 Andrew Donaldson House on Front Street in Petersburg. The Donaldson House is next to the older Loder House and, per Ms. Fox's comment, ironically operated under the name "Loder House Restaurant" in years past. The new owner is interested in placing a bronze National Register plaque on the building. Mr. Becher said the cost for one of these 7x10-inch oval custom worded plaques from Erie Landmark is \$171, provided it is shipped with the two larger plaques already approved. He asked whether the board wanted to use current funds for the Donaldson House plaque, which would likely be presented at the next Preservation Awards event. Such plaques were often presented at awards events in the past (up to 15 at a time), although the last time was 2014. Ms. Wingo noted that it was something the board liked to do when funding was available and that everyone would likely agree is worth doing when possible. Mr. Becher replied that they were generally placed on National Register properties or given to acknowledge good rehabilitation work on an a significant historic property. The Donaldson House is NR-listed and the owner is very interested in the history of the property. Ms. Striker concurred that the owner has been researching the history of the house. Ms. Wingo concluded by asking whether the board was comfortable purchasing a plaque for this one property now and revisiting the plaque program in general at the January retreat. There was unanimous agreement from board members. Mr. Becher then asked Mr. Webster about the additional plaque could be covered under the purchase order that has already been issued. Mr. Webster stated that it should be covered provided the final cost is not more than 10% over the original PO total.

- 7. Diversity & Inclusivity in Historic Sites/Preservation.** Mr. Becher reminded the board that discussion at the last meeting focused on asking someone like Brent Leggs to provide some training to the board for this topic. Dr. Jackson indeed spoke with Mr. Leggs last week, who indicated that his packed schedule would preclude him from doing any training for at least the next 8 months. However, Mr. Leggs was able to shed light on possible funding sources for help with embracing greater diversity/inclusivity in historic sites and topics. This led Dr. Jackson to look at whether the board's Historic Boone County columns and/or Public Survey work could be used look at African-American history in Boone County. Ms. Striker replied that Ms. Fox wrote an article about Harry Rosenberry (Dinsmore's Farm Manager) but that it would probably be wise to revise it with input from the family, who has since been engaged. The series of articles pre-date the Boone County Public Library's intensive focus on local African-American history. BCPL staff have since written a number of articles, which can certainly be included in this new effort to recirculate previously published articles. As for public surveys, Ms. Striker is looking into expanding the use of the GIS data they

already have, including bringing new funding sources to bear. Mr. Leggs' is very interested in seeing Boone County's GIS work on African-American resources expanded to the state level. Dr. Jackson noted that there are significant funding sources (\$50K to \$100K) available to help with such projects, many of which do not require a cash match. Ms. Striker has also gotten some ideas from Mr. Leggs' instructional sessions about engaging local African-Americans to research their heritage at the local level. The National Trust for Historic Preservation is very supportive of such mentoring programs. Another available tool is the Underrepresented Community Grants program through the National Park Service. These \$25-50K grants require no match and are available to Certified Local Governments. These funds can be used for historic structures surveys, new National Register nominations and NR nomination revisions. For example, funds could be used to amend an existing nomination originally based on historic architecture to accurately reflect African-American significance to the property. In Boone County, Dinsmore Homestead and a number of churches already listed in the NR are good candidates for such work. In response to questions from board members, Ms. Striker clarified that the Underrepresented Community Grants program is separate from the "Federal Survey and Planning" funds available to CLGs annually through the Kentucky Heritage Council. The \$750,000/year in funding is available to communities across the country rather than through any sort of state-level allocation. Ms. Striker added that, while Mr. Leggs may not be available at present, his existing presentations are usable for training purposes. Dr. Jackson added that Leggs is a Paducah native and is interested in seeing Kentucky history play a broader role at the national level. He and Ms. Striker will keep the board apprised as the process moves forward.

V. Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, Ms. Wingo asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Fox made the motion to adjourn at 5:00 PM. Mr. Schiffer seconded and all agreed. The next business meeting of the Historic Preservation Review Board will be January 14, 2021, 4:00 PM, followed immediately by the board's annual winter retreat.

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