

Boone County Historic Preservation Review Board
Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2021
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 Bridget Striker called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM.

- II. **Roll Call.** Review Board members present were Chair Bridget Striker, Vice-Chair Pat Wingo, Pat Berry, Pat Fox, 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. Wingo moved to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2021, Review Board business as presented. Ms. Fox advised that there was an error stating that she would be acting as Vice-Chair in 2021, when it was actually supposed to say Ms. Wingo. Mr. Becher indicated the he would make that change. There being no further discussion, Ms. Wingo's motion was seconded by Dr. Jackson and approved unanimously with the change noted.

- IV. **Items for Discussion and/or Action**
 1. **Update on Current Planning Initiatives (Zoning, Florence Main St., Graves Rd/I-275).** Mr. Becher noted that the **Zoning Update** process has been kick started again, although he does not know the timeline for completion other than sometime in 2021. Regarding **the Florence Main Street District** update, he indicated that he is working back and forth with Zoning Administrator Kevin Wall on drafts of the revised study. The document is likely to be a hybrid of typical historic design review guidelines and form based zoning code. He is hoping to have a working draft done in April, provided graphics can be generated by the consultant hired for that task. The **Graves Road/I-275 Study** has been presented to Fiscal Court and a first reading held on May 9. Based on the amount of public comment and questions from Fiscal Court, they are not going to schedule a second reading without further discussion about possible changes. The document may go back before Fiscal Court sometime in April.

 2. **Review of Draft 2021 Action Plan.** Mr. Becher shared his computer screen to show the draft 2021 Action Plan drafted during the board's February retreat. The plan is in table format as follows with specific additional discussion listed below by task number.

Task	Initiative	Comments	Lead	Status/Date
1	Review Board FY2021-2022 Funding	\$5,000 National Register African-American Multiple Properties project	Striker Jackson Becher	2022+
2	2021 Preservation Awards	Ferguson Center if not virtual	All	Sept or Oct, 2021
3	Diversity & Inclusivity in Historic Sites & Preservation	Training sessions – live and/or virtual	Striker Jackson	Ongoing
4	Historic Preservation Public Survey	Next survey focus: Diversity & Inclusivity	BCPL Fox. Wingo	June target date
5	Historic articles circulated via CERKL service	Monthly topics	Wingo Hoffman Becher	Monthly
6	Boone County Zoning Update	Comment as needed	All	2021
7	Live Stream Virtual Events	Board-member driven topics & schedule	Berry Becher, etc.	2021+
8	Borderlands virtual conference?	Review Board to assist, attend, etc.	BCPL Jackson	Fall, 2021
FUTURE ACTION ITEMS				
1	Evaluate potential future Nat'l Register sites	Based on updated Florence & County survey results	Becher Wingo	Long-Term
2	County-wide survey update	Expand on 2019 Florence survey work	Future CLG	Long-Term

Task 2. The continued pandemic precludes holding an in-person awards event in May. September or October in the Ferguson Center Historic Courthouse is a more realistic timeline.

Task 3. In response to Ms. Fox’s question, Ms. Striker confirmed that this will include virtual training sessions for board members that will also be open to other local non-profits such as Dinsmore and Rabbit Hash. Ms. Wingo suggested that such training might also serve as continuing education toward annual CLG training credits. Ms. Striker and Mr. Becher thinks that should work.

Task 5. Mr. Becher noted that he revised the topic list and calendar as discussed in January and has submitted an article about the Old Clerk’s Building for March. For April, Mr. Becher will submit Hillary Delaney’s article titled “The Underground Railroad at Slavery’s Banks: An Unlikely Alliance.” He briefly ran through the rest of the scheduled 2021 articles. Ms. Wingo asked he can get readership numbers from Chris Courtney. He replied that he would, with the goal of creating a spreadsheet or graphic to display the results.

Task 7. Ms. Striker is working with Boone County Public Library (BCPL) personnel to plan a live stream tour of the Florence Cemetery in May. They would like to do Facebook Live streams or related events monthly through

2021, so anyone with a topic to propose should contact her. The Main Library will begin hosting small groups for presentations in April, but will also continue to do virtual events and hybrid live/virtual events because they are so popular. Schedules and times are flexible, although evenings are still best. Ms. Fox asked about a Lewis & Clark “Corps of Discovery” presentation, which they discussed briefly. Ms. Striker and Mr. Berry also talked briefly about (1) an SAR presentation of their battle flag collection by presenters in period dress and (2) a “walk down Florence Main Street” type event with he and Ms. Ginny Kohl of the Boone County Historical Society. These live stream events can be recorded and made available for virtual educational programming. Ms. Wingo suggested planning to stream the Florence Baptist Church Kentucky Historic Highway Marker dedication once a schedule is set. Ms. Striker encouraged anyone with ideas to contact her about scheduling.

Task 8. Ms. Striker stated that the National Park Service Network to Freedom has asked BCPL to partner with them and the Michigan Freedom Trail on events. As such, she thinks the Borderlands Conference will take place. There will be a focus on the Cass County, MI, events of 1847. BCPL would talk about the 1847 events from the Kentucky point of view. BCPL is also planning to host a book discussion with Dr. Caleb McDaniel about his 2020 Pulitzer Prize in History book “Sweet Taste of Liberty: A True Story of Slavery and Restitution in America.” These initiatives alone are the foundation for the Borderlands Conference, slated for September. She closed by stating that doing these types of events virtually is much easier to manage than their in-person counterparts, which can take many months to plan at much greater expense.

3. **Historic Boone County Columns.** See above Agenda Item 2, Task 5.
4. **Diversity & Inclusiveness.** See above Agenda Item 2, Tasks 3 and 8.
5. **Potential Virtual Tours/Events.** See above Agenda Item 2, Task 7.
6. **2019-2020 Project: KHS Historical Markers.** Mr. Becher indicated that he has learned from KHS staff that (1) Florence Baptist Church marker is presently being cast and (2) the invoice for the Old Courthouse marker was never paid. He has the County Finance Department to look into the issue. Mr. Webster indicated he would follow up if Mr. Becher needs help with the financial issue. The delay is not of great concern because a dedication event for the marker is unlikely before fall 2021 due to the pandemic.
7. **2020-2021 Funding and Potential Projects.** Mr. Becher noted that the **Cemetery Signage Project** has been done for some time. **The bronze plaques** for the Renaker House and Boone County Recorder Building in Burlington and Donaldson House in Petersburg have been received, with the two for Burlington forwarded to county Property Maintenance for installation. Mr. Becher asked whether anyone had thoughts on when/how the Donaldson

House marker should be presented, given the delayed annual awards event. Ms. Striker suggested a virtual award presentation, if for some reason the owner can't wait until fall. Ms. Fox noted that the Donaldson House hosted a well-regarded restaurant named the Loder House in the not so recent past. Mr. Becher held up the bronze oval plaque for the board to see. Ms. Striker added that the library has information about Andrew Donaldson, in part because the house was on the Petersburg Ghost Walk held most recently in October, 2020. Mr. Becher indicated that he had no further updates to present and Ms. Striker asked whether anyone had questions about agenda items before the meeting closed.

V. Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, Ms. Striker asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Fox made the motion to adjourn at 4:45 PM. Ms. Wingo seconded and all agreed. The next business meeting of the Historic Preservation Review Board will be April 8, 2021, 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Thomas Schiffer, Recording Secretary

Bridget Striker, Chair
Boone County Historic Preservation Review Board

Date