

Boone County Historic Preservation Review Board
Meeting Minutes
April 8, 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, 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. Wingo moved to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2021, Review Board business as presented. There being no further discussion, Ms. Wingo's motion was seconded by Mr. Berry approved unanimously.

- IV. **Items for Discussion and/or Action**
 1. **Update on Current Planning Initiatives (Zoning, Florence Main St., Graves Rd/I-275).** Mr. Becher had nothing new to report about the **Zoning Update** and noted that he is waiting for comments from Kevin Wall to proceed with further work on the **Florence Main Street District** update. The **Graves Road/I-275 Study** has been presented to Fiscal Court and a first reading will be held on April 13, with likely second reading April 27. Fiscal Court will likely approve the study with changes at the second reading.

 2. **Historic Boone County Columns.** For April, Mr. Becher will submit Hillary Delaney's article titled "The Underground Railroad at Slavery's Banks: An Unlikely Alliance." He added that the schedule for the rest of the year is fairly well set and that he will get engagement numbers from Chris Courtney for past months.

 3. **Diversity & Inclusiveness.** Ms. Striker commented that the Boone County Public Library (BCPL) sponsored a Network to Freedom virtual program at the end of March, which she shared with board members in advance. She will continue to share such programs when they become available. Participation in such programs will go a long way toward achieving goals for diversity & inclusiveness. BCPL is also working with several young local African-Americans who are very interested in exploring their own history.

4. **Historic Preservation Public Survey.** Ms. Striker has this scheduled for June and expects to have questions ready for the board to review at the May meeting. She asked Mr. Becher to remind her about this item later in April.
5. **Potential Virtual Tours/Events.** Ms. Striker recently emailed board members to request their ideas for virtual tours. She received a great suggestion from Ms. Hoffman about following the historic research process – sort of a “Who Do You Think You Are” but for buildings, stories, or topics more than straight genealogy. A topic such as the first deed or first will could be a good starting point. Such a program could be recorded ahead of time by BCPL’s videographer. She and Mr. Becher briefly discussed details for a presentation about the history of the 1889 Boone County Courthouse. Mr. Becher has already committed to a May 26 virtual program for the Behringer-Crawford Museum, but can use that to refine a recorded hybrid live/PPT event for BCPL later in 2021. Ms. Striker asked if anyone has a virtual tour they would like to present in July. Mr. Berry said he has met with Ginny Kohl about doing something related to Florence history. Their working title is “A Flavor of Florence” and would be a series of mid-20th century anecdotal histories of places on Florence Main Street. The first one is about Riddell’s Market with other topics such as the Main Street Fire Station, Martin Brothers Garage, etc. Ms. Striker said that sounds great and they would probably be pre-recorded. Mr. Berry thinks they should be able to get going on the first event in mid-May. Ms. Striker and Mr. Schiffer talked briefly about a program relating to the river recorded from his working steam boat.
6. **Fall Borderlands Conference.** Ms. Striker stated that the conference has been scheduled for Friday, August 27. This will kick off International Underground Railroad Month and the partnership between Kentucky and Michigan. The Michigan Freedom Trail’s main day will be October 2. The organizations will alternate presentations and events during the weeks between the bookend dates. Among other things, BCPL will 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.” She expects to start lining up speakers in June. BCPL is looking into a Zoom Webinar subscription to increase the level of control over their virtual presentations. She closed by saying that anyone who wants to help with planning or participate in any way should contact her.
7. **2019-2020 Project: KHS Historical Markers.** Mr. Becher reported that he has received confirmation from the Kentucky Historical Society that the marker invoice has been paid and that he should expect to receive draft wording for the marker to review in the coming weeks. He confirmed that the First Baptist Church of Florence marker was in the process of being cast at the foundry. Ms. Striker noted that August 8 is Emancipation Day, which might be an opportunity to do something with the church’s former congregants while dedicating the marker, assuming it’s done. Mr. Wingo said that to the best of her knowledge Vanessa Leneer at the City of

Florence would likely coordinate such an event from the City's end, while Public Services would handle installation details with the state.

8. **2020-2021 Projects: Cemetery Signage, Bronze Plaques, etc.** 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 has confirmed a precise location for the Boone County Recorder building's plaque, which will be placed on Washington Street. The oval marker for the Donaldson House in Petersburg can wait until a Preservation Month type event in the fall. Ms. Striker asked whether anyone had any questions or comments about agenda items before the meeting closed.

V. Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, Ms. Striker asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Schiffer made the motion to adjourn at 4:43 PM. Ms. Wingo seconded and all agreed. The next business meeting of the Historic Preservation Review Board will be May 13, 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