

Boone County Historic Preservation Review Board
Meeting Minutes
May 13, 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, 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 April 8, 2021, Review Board business meeting with one spelling correction. 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 reported that the **Graves Road/I-275 Study** was approved April 27 by Fiscal Court following second reading. At some point in the future, the revised study will need to be approved by the Planning Commission. He added that a couple of potential developments within the new Graves Road interchange zoning districts area appear to be arising already. Mr. Webster indicated that the construction team expects to have the full alignment of the New Graves Road complete by the end of the 2021 calendar year. Mr. Becher had nothing new to report about the **Zoning Update**. City of Florence staff are reviewing the **Florence Main Street District** update and, once those comments are received, the next step will be to present it to the Planning Commission Technical/Design Review Committee. Mr. Becher will continue to update the board on these projects going forward.

 2. **Historic Boone County Columns.** Per the schedule developed at the January retreat, Mr. Becher submitted Hillary Delaney's article "The General Superintendent of the Underground Railroad" for May. He added that he is working with Chris Courtney to develop a spreadsheet showing which articles have been submitted level of engagement through the CERKL newsletter service and similar metrics. He will share that with the board at the next

meeting. Ms. Wingo commented that she will revise an article about the Old Burlington Cemetery for submission in June.

3. **Diversity & Inclusiveness.** Ms. Striker stated that there was nothing new this month aside from the survey questions to be discussed under the next agenda item.
4. **Historic Preservation Public Survey.** Ms. Striker asked if everyone had a chance to look over the draft survey questions sent with the monthly packet. Mr. Becher opened the document and shared his desktop screen. Ms. Striker stated the intent of this small survey (5 questions) is to gauge people's knowledge of local African-American history and interest in learning more. Questions also ask respondents where they have gotten information about African-American history and whether they would attend (or allow their children to attend) a community sponsored event or field trip to learn more. Board members agreed that the proposed questions are clear, concise and should meet the goal of gauging local knowledge and potential future interest. There being no further comments or questions, Ms. Striker said she will work to get the survey questions out to the public in June.
5. **Potential Virtual Tours/Events.** Ms. Striker said that the library has made some progress, including a quick virtual tour of the Florence Cemetery via Facebook Live the previous night. They had 20-30 people engaged during the tour and over 500 views of the recording by morning. She and library's videographer will meet with Mr. Berry to plan how to do Mr. Berry's proposed "Flavor of Florence" series. Mr. Berry said that he and Ginny Kohl plan to do a series of mid-20th century anecdotal histories of places on Florence Main Street. The first will be about Riddell's Market with other topics such as Martin Brothers Garage and Denham's Drugstore. Ms. Striker said it should be a great series and they will be pre-recorded and available online afterwards. Ms. Striker continued to say that the library is planning a Burlington tour for July 7 and a short Underground RR tour in late August. These will be virtual tours, with in-person tours likely not before fall, 2021. Ms. Striker and Mr. Becher talked briefly about doing a hybrid video/slide presentation of the Old Courthouse. He is presently working on a presentation for Berhinger-Crawford Museum's NKY History Hour, scheduled for May 26. That will hopefully serve as a trial run for something later in the year for the Boone County Public Library.
6. **Fall Borderlands Conference.** Ms. Striker confirmed that the conference is scheduled to begin Friday, August 27, but has no further updates at this time. Mr. Becher briefly recounted the main points from the April meeting regarding International Underground Railroad Month and the partnership between Kentucky and Michigan. The Michigan Freedom Trail and BCPL will alternate presentations and events during September. 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.”

- 7. 2021 Preservation Awards Nominees.** Mr. Becher briefly listed awards nominees, which includes those carried over from 2020, when COVID prevented an awards event. These include the Preservation of Boone County Historic Highway Plans (Rob Davis, KYTC), Historic African American Resources in Boone County (BCPL), C.W. Myers General Store Rehabilitation, Florence (Brian & Diana Nicely), Marian Historic Venue, Burlington (Maggie & the Wainscotts), Old Boone County Infirmary Cemetery (Eagle Scout Liam Collins), Stansifer-Utz Cemetery Wall (Boone County Parks), and the Adam Senour Log House (The Wainscotts). Ms. Wingo said the City of Florence may have some historic stone remaining from salvaging a stone wall on Old Toll Road, should any be needed for the Cemetery stone wall. She also added that the City has just finished extensive rehabilitation of the Florence Main Street Fire Station, which should be considered for an award this year. Mr. Becher thanked everyone and asked that any additional nominees be brought to his attention at any time in the coming months.
- 8. Constance Cemetery.** Mr. Becher put this on the agenda in response to a call from Cindy Smith, whose property borders the cemetery. She has been mowing a small portion of the cemetery but can't manage the entire site, which is nearly ½ acre on a hillside. Her father took care of it on a volunteer basis for years and had been mowed periodically in recent years by various local service organizations. She is looking for help to address long term maintenance. Mr. Becher explained to her that this is an ongoing issue with many small family cemeteries around the county and that the problem is handled poorly by Kentucky state law. He asked if anyone on the board had connections to local scout troops or churches in the Constance area. Mr. Berry asked the date of the last burial in the Constance cemetery. Mr. Becher replied sometime in the mid-1950s. After additional discussion, Mark Ihrig was suggested as a good contact affiliated with local scout troops. Mr. Becher will follow up with him.
- 9. 2019-2020 Project: KHS Historical Markers.** Mr. Becher reported that he has not heard anything else from the Kentucky Historical Society about the Florence Baptist Church marker. Ms. Striker added that she has not either but has been in touch with City of Florence staff to offer assistance from the BCPL as needed. Mr. Becher has, however, received and authorized the text for the Old Boone County Courthouse marker, which should now be at the foundry. He shared that text with the board. Mr. Webster asked if the board still wanted to move the “Craig’s Camp/Burlington” marker from the courthouse grounds to a new site at Burlington Commons to avoid crowding the courthouse site. Mr. Becher and Mr. Webster agreed to meet on site to pick a location and work on applying for the relocation through the state as needed.

10. **2020-2021 Projects: Cemetery Signage, Bronze Plaques, etc.** Mr. Becher had no updates to offer on this item, noting that everything is either done or nearly done. 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. Ms. Wingo made the motion to adjourn at 4:50 PM. Mr. Schiffer seconded and all agreed. The next business meeting of the Historic Preservation Review Board will be June 10, 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