

Boone County Historic Preservation Review Board
Meeting Minutes
June 10, 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 4:04 PM.

- II. **Roll Call.** Review Board members present were Chair Bridget Striker, Vice-Chair Pat Wingo, Dr. Eric Jackson, and Tom Schiffer. Pat Berry joined the meeting at 4:10 PM. Also present was Boone County Planning Commission staff member Matt Becher.

- III. **Approval of Minutes.** Ms. Wingo moved to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2021, Review Board business meeting as presented. There being no further discussion, Ms. Wingo's motion was seconded by Dr. Jackson approved unanimously.

- IV. **Items for Discussion and/or Action**
 1. **Update on Current Planning Initiatives (Zoning update, Florence Main St.).** Mr. Becher reported that a complete initial draft of the **Florence Main Street District Study** will go to the Boone County Planning Commission Technical/Design Review Committee on June 16. He has incorporated comments from City of Florence staff into the document, which is approximately 30 pages long with maps, figures, etc. The next step will likely be an initial presentation to Florence City Council and then public workshops. 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, Ms. Wingo forwarded an article about the Old Burlington Cemetery to Mr. Becher as the June submission to the CERKL newsletter serviced managed by Chris Courtney. Mr. Becher stated he would review and submit the article early the next week.

 3. **Diversity & Inclusiveness.** Ms. Striker indicated that planning continues for relevant events in September, which she will share with everyone once details are more firm.

 4. **Historic Preservation Public Survey.** Mr. Becher said that he had gotten access that afternoon into the server where the survey resides. He will put it on the Review Board's Facebook page and provide it to Mr. Courtney next

week for circulation by CERKL. Ms. Striker added that the library will add it to their social media pages as well. It will run for six weeks or so, which should give time for a number of engagements and responses.

5. **Potential Virtual Tours/Events.** Ms. Striker said that the library has been working with Mr. Berry to plan the first of his “Flavor of Florence” series. They will meet for filming at Stringtown Restaurant the morning of June 24. Mr. Berry noted that the dining room is not presently open, which affords the opportunity to sit down and talk about the building’s history with owner Rick Potter. Mr. Potter is familiar with the stories about the building’s resident ghost “Henry,” who apparently believes he was shot in a card game. Henry makes his presence known by moving items around unexpectedly, leaving puddles of water in odd places, etc. They expect this first episode to take some time to produce, but the process should be shorter for the subsequent stories Mr. Berry has planned with Ginny Kohl. Ms. Striker added that she and Hillary Delaney from the library will be doing a Facebook Live video from downtown Burlington on July 7. Such events are easily planned and managed and have a high level of engagement. Over 140 people tuned in for their Florence Cemetery live presentation in May. The library will do a similar live Underground RR related story sometime in August or September. Mr. Becher said he would get with Ms. Striker about an Old Courthouse presentation after the Preservation Awards event.
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.
7. **2021 Preservation Awards Nominees.** Mr. Becher reported that the awards event will be held on September 9, the same day the Old Courthouse historic highway marker is dedicated. and 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 Kentucky Historical Society (KHS) staff says the Old Courthouse roadside marker is complete and ready for installation. To accommodate installation of the new marker on the courthouse grounds, Mr. Becher has submitted a formal Relocation Request to move the existing Craig's Camp/Burlington marker to a new site across KY 18 at Burlington Commons. The request included rationale for the move, a map and letters of support. Assuming it is approved, planning for dedication of the Old Courthouse marker on September 9 can proceed. Regarding the Florence Baptist Church KHS marker, Ms. Striker has spoken to someone at the City of Florence and learned they are planning to install and dedicate the marker in July. She's hoping to coordinate with the City in enough time to plan something that includes former members of the church.
10. **2020-2021 Projects: Cemetery Signage, Bronze Plaques, etc.** Mr. Becher had no updates to offer, but noted that he will keep the item on the monthly agenda until the remaining two bronze markers are installed. Ms. Striker added that the library has retained intern Olivia Nbgua from Berea College to research the 1866 Civil Rights Act and local violations of it, along with other aspects of Boone County African American history. Funds allocated for her work in the FY 2020-2021 budget have been invoiced to the County.
11. **Dr. Eric Jackson.** Dr. Jackson announced that the June meeting would be his last as a board member. He has been appointed by Judge Moore to the Boone County Public Library Board of Trustees, effective in July. While he has to come off the historic preservation board, he still wants to be involved and will continue to attend meetings in an ex-officio capacity if he is able. Mr. Becher and board members thanked Dr. Jackson for his participation in the board over the last few years.

V. Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, Ms. Striker asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Wingo made the motion to adjourn at 4:45 PM. Mr. Schiffer seconded and all

agreed. The next business meeting of the Historic Preservation Review Board will be August 12, 2021, 4:00 PM, most likely in person at the Ferguson Center/Old Boone County Courthouse.

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