

Decorah Historic Preservation Commission
Minutes of July 8, 2019 Meeting (FINAL)

1. **Roll call.** Meeting was called to order by Chair Mark Muggli at 4:33 p.m., with commissioners Steve Kelsay, Diane Scholl, Hayley Jackson and Judy van der Linden present. Absent were Adrienne Coffeen and Lois Humpal. Decorah resident Janelle Pavlovec also attended.
2. **Review and approval of Minutes from June 10, 2019 meeting, distributed by Commission secretary Judy van der Linden.** MOTION - Steve moved and Diane seconded a motion to approve the minutes as written. Motion passed.
3. **Review request to P&Z for C-3 façade replacement at 122 E. Water St.**
Commissioners discussed the proposed facade for this non-contributing building. Without historic photos of the building, they agreed a genuine restoration is probably impossible. The proposed board and batten siding is acceptable, but somewhat taller second floor replacement windows with added window definition and mullions would help the facade complement nearby buildings, they decided. Also, a more precise drawing of the proposed roofline is desirable. Steve and Mark will attend P&Z tonight to suggest those changes. City Manager Chad Bird stopped by the meeting and encouraged DHPC to contact building owners and/or builders at any time to ask questions about facade work.
4. **NHPA Section 106 Review: 219 W. Water St, Interstate Power and Light monopole replacement.** Commissioners decided the pole does not damage the historical integrity of the downtown and thus DHPC will not file a comment with the federal government objecting to its placement.
5. **Main Street Program update.**
 - a. **July 30 Des Moines oral presentation of application.** Mark and Judy thanked Steve, Diane, Vanessa Courtney and Ellen McDonald for their help with the MS written application. The steering committee is now working on the 30-minute oral presentation. If Decorah is chosen for Main Street, Mark has agreed to serve on the board of directors. Judy and Janelle reported the county HPC endorsed the Main Street program application “with reservations.” Mark said he was surprised to hear a local group apparently will order a MS assessment of Decorah without consulting with DHPC. Chad Bird identified the group as Winneshiek County Economic Development Inc. *Mark will contact Stephanie Fromm and Mark Jensen of WCEDI to say we’d like to be involved in the assessment if it goes forward.*
 - b. **June 20 KDEC morning show, Judy and Mark.** Mark and Judy joined Llew Jenkins as impromptu additional guests on the show to talk about Main Street.
 - c. **Kari Berg’s father’s photographic slide collection.** Kari believes her father Warren Berg’s collection may contain many photos of the downtown. Mark encouraged anyone interested to offer to go through the slides.
6. **May Historic Preservation Month activities.**
 - a. **Scavenger Hunt followup—KDEC presentation by Judy and Mark.** Mark and Judy were invited to the show to describe the DHPC scavenger hunt brochure.

7. **Luther College Campus Historic District update.** Mark reported we did not receive the grant that would help pay Jan Full to write the NRHP application. He and Eric Runestad, VP for Finance at Luther, discussed options. Mark hopes Luther will choose to fund the entire cost. Eric will get back to Mark.
8. **Update on Planning and Zoning and Board of Adjustment issues related to signage and renovations on historic buildings and in historic districts.**
 - a. **Muggli met with City Manager on May 10.**
 - b. **Final memo & draft signage document emailed to City Manager on May 13.**
 - c. **City Manager will distribute to P&Z and BoA and will lead the project coordination.**
 - i. **No joint meeting on July 8.** Mark was disappointed there was no joint meeting of the three groups scheduled for today. He hopes for one soon. *Re: signage, Mark will contact Ross Hadley to find out where the Street Committee stands on signs right now.*
9. **Preservation contacts: Congregational Church.** A representative of the Congregational Church asked Mark about funding possibilities -- they must replace their roof. Mark told them about two grants.
10. **Possible fall historic preservation conference co-hosted by HPC's of Winneshiek County, Decorah, and Fort Atkinson.** Mark has heard nothing more about this.
11. **Charles Altfillisch project update.**
 - a. **Winneshiek County Newspaper archives and Altfillisch research on Google doc.**
 - b. **Long-term goals and ongoing tasks for Commission members.** Members decided to wait until August to discuss how to proceed.
12. **Broadway-Phelps Park amendment.** Mark hasn't worked on this recently.
13. **Local historic resources and Wikipedia—note Google doc for recording existing articles.** Mark hasn't worked on this recently.
14. **DHPC Municipal website revision.** Mark reported one submitted change still has not been made to the website.
15. **Commissioner Reports.** Mark reported he heard nothing in response to the letter he sent to City Council members and the Mayor about placing the proposed Veteran's Memorial to the side of City Hall rather than in front of it. Chad told Mark the memorial will be smaller than originally thought. *Mark will write to City Engineer Jeremy Bril about possibly abandoning the short road just north of City Hall, thus giving more room for the Memorial if it is placed on the front lawn.* There were no other commissioner reports.
16. **Public Comment.** There was none.
17. **Possible upcoming meeting: Monday, August 12, 2019.** Members will meet at this time with Hayley leading the meeting. Mark will phone in.
18. **Adjournment.** MOTION-Steve moved and Hayley seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion approved. Meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.