

Decorah Historic Preservation Commission
Minutes of February 3, 2021 Meeting (FINAL)

1. **Roll Call.** Chairperson Mark Muggli called the electronic meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. Present were Adrienne Coffeen, Mark Branum, Hayley Jackson, Diane Scholl, Steve Kelsay and Judy van der Linden. Decorah resident Janelle Pavlovec also attended via telephone.
2. **Review and approval of January 6, 2021 minutes. *Distributed by DHPC secretary Judy van der Linden.*** Mark M. declared the minutes approved as written.
3. **Murals in Historic District.**
 - a. **City Manager Chad Bird update.** Chad was not present for the update. Mark M. said that Planning and Zoning is not interested in forming a task force to discuss murals, and he hoped Chad would give commissioners more details.
4. **DHPC 2021 officer elections.** Diane nominated and Steve seconded Mark M. for chairperson. All voted in favor. Judy nominated and Diane seconded Hayley for vice-chairperson. All voted in favor. Steve nominated and Hayley seconded Judy for secretary. All voted in favor.
5. **National Alliance of Preservation Commissions quarterly e-journal *The Alliance Review*.** Mark M. noted that all commissioners should be receiving this publication, and if not, to let him know. He mentioned several articles of interest from the January 20th issue (pp. 9, 10, 42 & 43).
6. **Luther College Campus Historic District.**
 - a. **“Final” version submitted to SHPO on January 14, 2021.** Mark M. said Jan’s final version required still one more change, but that it has since been sent in to the federal office, which has 45 days to respond.
 - b. **Final payment made to Jan Olive Full.**
 - c. **Announcement process.** Mark M. wants to write a press release for local media when the nomination is approved. He later plans to write a lengthier article for the college’s *Agora* journal. Commissioners agreed to tentatively plan on a public event in early fall to celebrate and publicize the historic district designation.
7. **Ingvoldstad Lumber trackage project update.** Mark M. reported these developments: WCHPC supports moving the track but doesn’t want to co-sponsor the project; Bowstring Bridge Park cannot be a possible site for some of the track, per Paula Mohr at SHPO; the Preston, MN, historical society has finished a similar railroad project in Preston but did not offer help to Decorah. Mark M. suggested DHPC keep looking for someone to lead it. (See a list of persons already contacted about the project, attached.) *Mark M. will contact Paul Scott at Decorahnews.com and Steve will contact Mike Klimesh of Decorah newspapers about publicity.*
8. **Contacts.**
 - a. **News release concerning Commercial District signage.** (See copy of news release attached.) Paula Mohr sent a short notice of the district’s new signs to preservation groups in Iowa. Tanya O’Connor welcomes any articles about local history for publication in the Decorah newspaper. Adrienne plans to write one about the Altfillisch bowling alley on West Water St.

a door on the opening. Mark M. commented that the oral tradition may be DHPC's main source of information for the cave sign.

14. Charles Altfillisch project updates.

a. Constance Johnson contact. Constance told Mark M. she does not intend to write a book on Altfillisch. She sent him a link to the NRHP nomination for East Side and elementary school campus. Mark M. reported that when East Side School was torn down in 2008, the entire campus was delisted at the request of SHPO, so that Carrie Lee Elementary is no longer a NRHP property. *Adrienne will ask her sister for Jan Sproatt's email address for Judy.*

b. Individual Commissioner updates on website content. Mark M. noted that commissioners can go to the Altfillisch brochure web content Googledoc to see additions and identify "to do" projects.

15. Commissioner Reports. There were none.

16. Public Comment. There was none.

17. Possible upcoming meeting Wednesday, March 3, 2021, 4 p.m. Commissioners decided to continue meeting via Zoom. Next meeting date was noted.

18. Adjournment. Meeting was adjourned at 5:48 p.m. by the Chair.

NOTES ON RAILROAD PROJECT IN DECORAH

Note for Facebook "Historic Sites" and Larry Peterson sites:

The Decorah Historic Preservation Commission is exploring the possibility of moving the last Decorah railroad tracks from Ingvolstad Lumber to near the existing Decorah depots. DHPC has some permissions, would provide broad oversight, and would coordinate fundraising. But we need volunteers with knowledge of railroads and construction willing to take leadership on the siting and moving. Please email or call Muggli (mugglimz@luther.edu, 612-720-5795) with your interest or with names. Thanks.

NOTES ON SOME CONTACTS FOR DECORAH RAILROAD TRACK PROJECT

Mark Z. Muggli (January 27, 2021)

DHPC. Willing to do some high-level coordination and serve as fund-raising conduit.

Ed Epperly. Idea originator. Willing to help coordinate, especially through fundraising.

Scott Johanningmeier. Contacted by Steve Kelsay. Owns former Ingvolstad Lumber Yard. Is willing to have someone move the track as long as they refill the ground. No definite timeline.

Kelly Regan. Contacted by Mike Harman and Muggli. Kind of excited by idea of having track laid near his chiropractic building.

David Wadsworth. Contacted by Muggli. Interested in project, Willing to have track by his Combination Depot on Railroad Ave. Liaison to WCHPC.

Rec. Contact with Kim Tschudy (608-527-5637), a Milwaukee Railroad expert in Wisconsin.

WCHPC. Supportive of project, but unable to help. Knows that Bowstring Bridge Park would not be an option for placement.

Chad Bird. Contacted by Muggli. Could be an exciting historic project for Decorah, but would be a lot of work. Willing to help coordinate work of City Engineer for determining boundaries, right of ways, etc.

Duane Fenstermann. Contacted by Muggli. Knows railroad and local history--he provided a useful precis in an email--and was a member of model train group (which has disbanded), but can't help with a project of this scope.

Jon Rollerton. Contacted by Adrienne Coffeen and Ed. Epperly. Knows railroad history, but not technical processes, and can't help coordinate.

Lyle Otte. Contacted by Epperly and Muggli. Intrigued by project, but not able to contribute time.

Joe Sheridan. Contacted by Ed Epperly. Worked on track at Calmar. Would be willing to be involved and has access to some tools for lifting track. But not general supervisor.

William Elsbernd. Rec. by Janelle Pavlovec. Former railroad worker. Contacted by Muggli. Not able to help, and doesn't think the project is feasible.

Gordon Tindall. Rec. on Facebook and by Pavlovec. Contacted by Muggli. Longtime railroad worker. Has installed track for John Kerber. Willing to install the track, with help from some younger folks (Ian Tindall and Jordan Kjome?), but can't supervise project.

John Kerber. Rec. by Gordon Tindall. Contacted by Muggli. Very knowledgeable about railroads and the practicalities of track and car installation, having installed some track and a car on his land. Willing to chat about project, but not able to get involved.

Preston Historical Society. Project involving grain elevator, track, and a number of train vehicles. Contacted by Muggli by Facebook Messenger, but without response.

Torger Berg. Mentioned by Wadsworth. Worked as a “gandy dancer” in his youth.