

Decorah Historic Preservation Commission
July 26, 2021 Meeting Minutes (FINAL)

1. **Roll Call.** The meeting at 500 Center Ave. was called to order at 5:03 pm by commission chair Mark Muggli. Present were Adrienne Coffeen, Steve Kelsay, Mark Branum and Judy van der Linden. Diane Scholl and Hayley Jackson were absent. Decorah resident Janelle Pavlovec attended.
2. **Review and approval of June 30, 2021 minutes. *Distributed by DHPC secretary Judy van der Linden.*** Minutes were adopted with the understanding that Judy will change some wording and a house number in item #5.
3. **State Historical Society Pop-up Display for Iowa's 175th Anniversary & Aluminum Historical Markers.** Mark explained that the society has 300 tabletop displays honoring Iowa's 175th anniversary. Commissioners agreed they couldn't make arrangements for a display at this time. *Mark will forward the email from SHS to Kristin Torresdal at Decorah Public Library in case she would like to order a display.*
4. **Decorah Railroad projects.**
 - a. **Water St. Depot track project.** Mark reported this is on hold right now because everyone involved is so busy.
 - b. **David Wadsworth and Railroad Ave. Combination Depot.** Judy said she hasn't yet contacted David to arrange another tour for commissioners. *She will call him in August.*
5. **Preserve Iowa Summit, June 3-5, recap.** Video of the summit presentations will be available for viewing until Aug. 31, Mark noted.
6. **Charles Altfillisch project.**
 - a. **SHPO response to Muggli query about potential NRHP Altfillisch listing.** Mark emailed the State Historic Preserves Office in early July about the possibility of setting up a discontinuous historic district for the many Altfillisch properties DHPC has discovered in Decorah. He was told that SHPO and the National Park Service discourage such districts. The alternative would be a Multiple Property Document, but these require extensive research and at least one National Register nomination for a particular building. He said he doesn't think that's worth doing at this point.
 - b. **Update on brochure and web content.** Mark reported that Decorah Chamber of Commerce director Jessica Rilling said she has an employee who could lay out the Altfillisch brochure. Jessica thought brochure costs might be covered by the city's hotel-motel tax. If she can estimate the costs, Mark may apply for the money. He'll need to consider both the application deadline and how close the brochure is to being finished. Mark also reported that Jon Pankow, who had offered to lay out DHPC's web content, said he is now too busy until winter. Commissioners discussed organizing the web content as a single-page Google doc. Hot links might take readers to specific sections. No firm decision on format was made. Mark said interesting new content has been added to the web document, including descriptions of the Congregational Church addition and the 1940 facade remodel of Larsen's Clothiers.

7. Contacts.

- a. Joel Zook inquiry about gas service coming to Decorah.** Mark said Kevin Lee and Judy found some answers for Joel.
 - b. Decorah Newspapers interview and article with MZM on Vesterheim plans.** The article was published July 15 in Decorah Public Opinion (DPO).
 - c. Decorah Newspapers interview and article with MZM on murals.** This article appeared July 22 in DPO. Mark was interviewed by Larry Sells, but additional text was added by another writer, Mark thought. There were some inaccuracies.
- 8. Commissioner Reports.** Steve reported that he tried but never connected with JoAn Stevenson to discuss plans for a front porch on her Altfillisch-designed home at 702 Center Ave. Judy said she learned the home at 607 Winneshiek Ave. was designed by Altfillisch. It was the Decorah Journal's Model Home for 1938 and was purchased by Justin Hammond.
- 9. Public Comment.** Janelle showed commissioners an article in the Cedar Rapids Gazette about murals in Waterloo, but noted it said nothing about plans to maintain the murals as they age.
- 10. Possible upcoming meeting, Wednesday, August 25, 2021, 4:00 pm.** Meeting date is tentative, since Mark may not be able to attend and commissioners don't know if there will be any C-3 permit requests to consider.
- 11. Adjournment.** Meeting adjourned at 5:44 pm. Steve gave us a tour of his home.