

**Decorah Historic Preservation Commission**  
Minutes of Dec. 28, 2022 Meeting (FINAL)

1. **Roll Call.** Mark Muggli, chair, called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm with commissioners Kathy Buzza, Diane Scholl and Judy van der Linden present. Mark Branum, Adrienne Coffeen and Hayley Jackson were absent. Mayor Lorraine Borowski was present, and Decorah resident Janelle Pavlovec arrived later.
2. **Review and approval of November 30, 2022 minutes (distributed by secretary Judy van der Linden).** Judy will change a statement about the Algyer house in 8b. Minutes were approved with that change.
3. **Consideration of Smith Memorial Hospital Building for NRHP.** Mark began the discussion by noting that DHPC may approve, disapprove and/or suggest changes to the nomination. Diane commented “I don’t see any reason we shouldn’t approve it, particularly because of the role the hospital served in the community. It was a major undertaking in its time.” Mark said he thought the Smith building’s “... comparison with other hospital buildings was one of the most interesting parts of the nomination,” and Kathy said, “Also interesting was the connection with (local Decorah architect) Charles Altfillisch.” Judy noted “I thought the application made a good case for the building meeting both criteria for inclusion on the National Register.” Commissioners voted 4-0 to approve the nomination with two recommendations – that academic degrees of A. R. Coffeen and Altfillisch be double checked and corrected if necessary, and that WCHS be changed to WCHPC in the nomination form. *(Mark will check on the degrees.)* Form was signed by Mayor Borowski after the vote.
4. **C-3 District.**
  - a. **Contact with Katie Goetz, researcher from Hess, Roise Historical Consultants ca. 105, 107-109 Water St. and 108 Washington St.** Mark checked for more photos of these buildings at Vesterheim and WCHS and Judy checked at DGA. Kevin Lee, Midge Kjome, Jennifer Kovarik and LaVonne Sharp helped, and Elizabeth Lorentzen will search for photos when she returns to Decorah. Jim Buzza looked through his postcard collection for views of the buildings. Still needed are face-on historic photos of 109 and 107 E. Water St.
5. **Altfillisch project.**
  - a. **609 W. Broadway centennial celebration.** Commissioners discussed featuring three other nearby Altfillisch homes as part of the celebration of Dale and Susan Goodman’s home. Members agreed that both the Goodman’s party and a separate preservation award event could be held in May, which is preservation month. *Mark will talk to the Goodmans about our idea for the three other homes and about best timing.*
6. **Iowa Cultural and Entertainment District update.** Mark said the only update was that the planning group will meet Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2023 at 11 am.
  - a. **Application date: early May 2023**
  - b. **Planning Group: DHPC, Chamber, Vesterheim, ArtHaus, Decorah Betterment, Visit Decorah Tourism, Decorah City**
  - c. **Upcoming planning meeting: Wednesday, January 25, 11:00 am, Chamber of Commerce**

**7. Significant Decorah Properties project**

**a. Project Guidelines and goals**

**b. List development.** Members discussed three homes Adrienne suggested for the list: 1303 Skyline Dr., where Lowell Erdman lived; 513 Locust Road, the B. O. Dahly home, and 313 East St., a concrete block home with garage. Members were encouraged to compare the three similar concrete block homes (this one and ones on North and River streets) to determine which or how many to include on the list. *Kathy will contact Lindsay Erdman about the Skyline Dr. house.* Diane suggested 208 Center St., 700 Linden St., 106 Spring St. and the former Will Bunge home, but several of these lacked integrity or were too new. *Kathy will search for other homes designed by William Bucknell, and others were encouraged to look for E. Turnock Hill-designed buildings.* Mark will ask commissioners about the list again in January, hoping it's complete enough at that point to post on the city's website.

**8. Commissioner Reports.** Judy began and Mark and Kathy joined in to discuss the recent National Alliance of Preservation Commission's free webinar about mid-century modern housing. All three watched it and felt it was informative and raised interesting questions about preservation of these homes.

**9. Public Comment.** There was none.

**10. Upcoming meeting: Wednesday, January 25, 2022, 4:30 pm.**

**11. Adjournment.** Meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm.