

KENDALL COUNTY
Historic Preservation Commission
Helmar Lutheran Church
11935 Lisbon Road Newark, Illinois
6:00 p.m.
November 20, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jeff Wehrli called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Jeff Wehrli (Chairman), Eric Bernacki, and Marty Shanahan

Absent: Kristine Heiman and Elizabeth Flowers

Also Present: Matt Asselmeier, Wanda A. Rolf, Myrtle Duvick, and Bob Christian

NEW BUSINESS

Attendees toured the Helmar Lutheran Church. Myrtle Duvick and Bob Christian led the tour. Built in 1847 by Norwegian immigrants, the church celebrated its One Hundred Seventy Fifth (175th) Anniversary in June of 2022. Currently there are three hundred (300) members in the congregation. Attendees viewed photographs of previous congregants at various functions throughout the years. Many changes were made to the church, from steeples being lowered to making additions for youth groups, Sunday school and fundraisers the church has stood the test of time.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Shanahan made a motion, seconded by Member Bernacki, to approve the agenda. With a voice vote of three (3) ayes, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Shanahan made a motion, seconded by Member Bernacki, to approve the minutes from the October 16, 2023, meeting. With a voice vote of three (3) ayes, the motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Wehrli said that it was great to meet at different places and learn the history of our county.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

Discussion of 2024 Historic Preservation Awards

Commissioners would start thinking about what groups and people should be nominated for next year.

Discussion of 2024 Meeting with Historic Preservation Groups

Chairman Wehrli mentioned having Roger Matile attend one of our meetings as he is an expert on historic structures in Kendall County and a columnist for Shaw Media, LLC.

Mr. Asselmeier reported that Pastor Hubbard from the Au Sable Grove Presbyterian Church was agreeable to having the meeting at the church on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Asselmeier needed to confirm if a person from the Church could provide a history of the building and congregation. Jon Pressley from the State would discuss preservation awards and the importance of landmarking a structure.

The request to ask attendees about the oldest structure and oldest business in Kendall County will be added to the save-the-date.

Discussion of Historic Structure Surveys

Mr. Asselmeier stated the surveys from unincorporated Kendall and Bristol Townships have been added to the GIS. To date, the reimbursement check had not been received.

The County Board approved Forty-Four Thousand Dollars (\$44,000) to survey unincorporated Na-Au-Say and Seward Townships. The grant window was expected to open in February or March 2024.

Discussion of Having Commission Meetings at Historic Locations in the County

Mr. Asselmeier reported that the below list are some of the locations the Commission could have tentative meetings:

United Plattville Association in January 2024.

Plano Masonic Lodge is in process of finalizing for the March 2024 meeting.

Henneberry Barn and Ashley Farm have no insulation and meetings could be held in the spring or summer of 2024 .

Pickerill Pigot House for Summer Group Meeting for July or August 2024.

CORRESPONDENCE

October 19, 2023, Email from Edith Farnsworth House

Commissioners reviewed the email from Farnsworth House commemorating National Hispanic Heritage Month. Send notices out regarding finding the oldest structures in Kendall County. Next meeting is at the county office building on December 18, 2023, at 6:00 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Member Shanahan made a motion, seconded by Member Bernacki, to adjourn. With a voice vote of three (3) ayes, the motion carried. The Historic Preservation Commission adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wanda A Rolf
Administrative Assistant