

**Boone County Historic Preservation Review Board
Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2016
4:00 PM**

The Boone County Historic Preservation Review Board held their monthly meeting on the above date at the Old Boone County Clerk's Building, Burlington.

- I. **Call to Order.** There being a quorum of the membership present, the meeting was called to order by Chair Pat Wingo at 4:02 PM.
- II. **Roll Call.** Review Board members present were Chair Pat Wingo, Vice-Chair Bridget Striker, Secretary Tom Schiffer, Pat Berry, Lisa Hoffman, and Pat Fox. Also present were Matt Becher representing the Staff of the Boone County Planning Commission and Assistant County Administrator Matthew Webster.
- III. **Approval of Minutes.** Ms. Hoffman moved to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2016, Review Board business meeting noting one typographical error. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wingo and approved unanimously.
- IV. **Introduction and Welcome of new Review Board member Patrick Berry**
- V. **Item Updates**
 1. **Historic Boone County Column.** Mr. Becher stated that for the June *Boone County Recorder* column, he submitted an article by the Library's Hillary Delaney about Boone County's 19th Century wine industry. There was no submission for July. For August, Pat Fox is working on article about the President's Inn, located in the old Central House Hotel building in Burlington. Mr. Becher is seeking submissions for September and beyond.
 2. **Rabbit Hash General Store.** Mr. Becher advised that the architects working on the project submitted a set of building plans for the store to the Boone County Building Department in early June and received a building permit at that time. He reviewed the plans and concurred with Building Inspector Jerry Noran that it appears the structure will be rebuilt almost exactly as it was prior to the fire using salvaged/reused materials wherever possible. The only interior change of note is the inclusion of a single large drink cooler on the left side rather than a series of smaller ones along the wall. Mr. Becher requested an update from the project manager in early August but received no reply.
- VI. **Items for Discussion and/or Action**
 1. **John C. Miller House/Piner Property.** On June 9, Ms. Striker and Mr. Becher met at Big Bone Lick with Mary Unterreiner, The Boone Conservancy's (TBC) Executive Director and Rachel Kennedy from the Kentucky Heritage Council (KHC) to discuss this project. TBC is under contract with NKU-CER to provide a Scope of Work for the comprehensive

history of Big Bone Lick required by the MOA for the Piner Stream Restoration Project. The MOA states that the Scope will be determined through consultation with the KHC and Review Board. Based on the site visit and subsequent discussion, we are looking at a Historic Context for the project, that the KHC described as including the following:

(1) an architectural survey component, that will document and/or update the architectural survey to conform to the provisional period of significance (POS)---1800-1960 (2) archival research in maps, deeds, wills, census, agricultural census, secondary sources, and etc. (3) Historic archaeological survey to document areas previously undisturbed with potential to help us understand the period from 1800-1960 in Big Bone Springs. The surveys should flow out of the findings of archival research. In the case of the architectural survey,. All buildings, structures, or objects within the POS should be documented and/or their information updated with us on the 2016 KY Historic Properties Survey Form.

Additionally, Ms. Striker and Mr. Becher are recommending a website (interactive, if possible) that makes the history of Big Bone Springs publicly accessible. The main goal is to produce something the public can see, feeling that the loss of the Miller farm buildings will be easily seen from the road. The hope is to balance out that visible loss with something visible in return. The Scope has not yet been finalized and still needs to be reviewed and formatted per NKU's contracting procedures.

- 2. Wilson Cemetery.** Excavation of the burials from the cemetery was completed on Tuesday, July 19 under the direction of archaeologist Alex Bybee of Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc (CRA). A total of 27 burials were removed, including 24 known and expected (based on headstones), 1 unidentified late adolescent or adult and 2 unidentified infants. From what Mr. Becher observed during site visits, the graves were carefully excavated and well documented with appropriate archaeological techniques. The remains are currently being photographed and analyzed as CRA's Lexington office, pending reinterment at Union-Rice Cemetery. The weekend after the fieldwork was completed, local residents apparently visited the site and were alarmed by open grave shafts and what was perceived to be "piled up grave markers." Someone called Fox 19 news, which aired a story about the relocation on July 27. Alex Bybee was out of town at this point, so Mr. Becher and Ms. Striker met representatives from the development company on site the next day. By that time, the grave shafts and cemetery area had been backfilled and the grave markers covered tightly by a large tarp. The developers were advised that if moving the grave markers to a more secure location off site was not feasible, the area should be fenced and posted with no trespassing signs. The developers indicated frustration in not having clear guidance about the various steps required for relocating a cemetery. Ms. Striker and Mr. Becher asked the board whether a more formalized process

should be drafted for presentation to the county. Mr. Webster noted that he would be glad to something like a Cemetery Relocation Checklist to the administration for consideration. Mr. Becher said that he would think about what such a checklist would include and bring it back to the board in a future meeting.

3. **Native American Burial Mound (Site 15Be679).** Mr. Becher reminded everyone that this mound is located in northern Boone County on property owned by the R. C. Durr Foundation. The applicants (Durr and the Schuster Group) are seeking an Army Corps permit to allow development of the site. The project would involve cutting and filling much of the parcel to accommodate a 510,000 sq ft. building. The project as designed would require removal of the mound. On August 2, Mr. Becher met with the Consulting Parties on site and traveled to Louisville for discussions on August 3. Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs) from the following tribes were involved in the site visit and/or discussions: Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, Eastern Band of Cherokee, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee, Miami Nation of Oklahoma, Osage Nation, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi. Based on the archaeology and Native American consultation, the mound appears to be a cremation site, which the Native Americans referred to as a “hearth.” It is known to contain cremains (burned human remains), but may also contain unburned human remains. At the site, Cherokee THPO Sheila Bird stated “You didn’t have to tell me that was a hearth, I could feel it.” In the discussions, all THPOs made it very clear they consider this a living component of their communities and that even discussing it’s removal is “inconceivable.” After reaching a brief impasse during the negotiations in Louisville, the applicants asked whether an alternative plan involving a slightly smaller building (425,000 sq ft) which would preserve the mound site might be acceptable. It would be a more complicated project and would not be financially viable without cooperation of adjacent landowners and reduction of impact fees. At this point, the applicants are planning to withdraw the current proposal and resubmit with a plan for a smaller building. Mr. Becher noted that he would advise the board if/when the application is resubmitted to the Army Corps.
4. **Old Boone County Courthouse.** In late July, the County posted a Request For Proposals (RFP) for architectural services for the Old Courthouse rehabilitation project. Mr. Becher and Pat Wingo are again participating in the RFP review team at Mr. Webster’s request. Mr. Webster stated that proposals were submitted by Hub & Weber (who also completed the earlier Feasibility Study) and a team consisting of EGC Construction Management and SFA Architects. After reviewing and ranking the proposals, both firms were invited in for interviews and presentations. After discussion, the evaluation team (which also included Property Maintenance Director Mike Albrecht and Building Inspector Jerry Noran) decided that, while both applicants were qualified, Hub & Weber were a better fit for the Old Courthouse Project. Mr. Webster noted that he would prepare a memo to the

Fiscal Court making the recommendation to hire Hub & Weber for the project. The issue should be on the court's August 16 meeting agenda. Assuming Fiscal Court approves the hire, the project should begin in a few weeks.

5. **Other. (A). Graves Cemetery.** Mr. Becher advised that he met with library staff and Eagle Scout candidate (Joseph Kiely), who is interested in doing some restoration work in this family cemetery, which is located in the back yard of a home in a Hebron subdivision. Mr. Becher will advise the board as the project moves forward. **(B). CLG Education Requirement.** Mr. Becher reminded everyone that the 1 hour/session continuing education for CLG board members needs to be met by September 30 - the end of the Federal Fiscal Year **(C). Friends of Big Bone.** Ms. Fox commented that Phase II of the displays at the Big Bone Lick museum are done that FOBB are fundraising for Phase III. FOBB is holding an event at the new Brass Ring bourbon bar in Burlington this fall and Ms. Fox will email the details to everyone.

There being no further business to come before the board, Ms. Fox made a motion to adjourn at 4:49 PM. Mr. Schiffer seconded and all present agreed. The next business meeting of the Historic Preservation Review Board will be on September 8, 2016, 4:00 PM at the Old Clerk's Building, Burlington.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Becher, Rural/Open Space Planner
Boone County Planning Commission

Thomas Schiffer, Recording Secretary

Pat Wingo, Chair
Boone County Historic Preservation Review Board

Date