

Boone County Historic Preservation Review Board
Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2004

The Boone County Historic Preservation Review Board met in their regular monthly meeting on the above date in the Old Boone County Clerk's Building behind the Administration Building.

- I. **Call to Order** The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Don Clare at 5:05 PM.
- II. **Roll Call** Review Board members present were Ted Bushelman, Vice Chair Don Clare, Bridget Striker, and Laurie Wilcox. Also present were Matt Becher representing the Staff of the Boone County Planning Commission and Jan Hancock, Recording Secretary. Chair Pat Fox arrived later in the meeting
- III. **Approval of Minutes** The Minutes of the February 19, 2004 Review Board meeting were presented for approval. Mr. Bushelman moved to approve the Minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilcox and approved by all those present.
- IV. **New and Old Business – Matt Becher**
 - A. **www.boonecountyheritage.org annual fee** Mr. Becher stated that a fee of \$35 needs to be paid to keep the website up for another year. Following discussion, **Ms. Wilcox moved to ask Mr. Costello to pay the \$35 annual fee for the website. Mr. Bushelman seconded the motion and it was approved by all those present.** Mr. Becher stated that the website is up and running now. Pat Lense will continue to add to it. The website looks really good.
 - B. **Preservation Month**
 - 1) **Derby Day at Dinsmore** Mr. Becher stated that Derby Day at Dinsmore will be on May 1. The Derby Day Committee met and agreed on a 1950's theme and a best costume contest, a best hat contest, a scavenger hunt, and trivia. There will be a cash bar, appetizers, music and mint juleps. The cost will be \$20 per person. In response to questions from Mr. Clare, Mr. Becher stated that Cinergy will not contribute to Derby Day at Dinsmore if it is called a "fundraiser". Marty McDonald is working with Cinergy on this. Mr. Clare stated that what is important about the events is making people aware of preservation.
 - 2) **Open House at Split Rock (May 8)** Ms. Fox stated that she has not met with Mark Jacobs and Kim Adams yet. She believes the event will be similar to last year. The event was from 10 AM to 4 PM last year and there was food and things to drink. Mr. Becher will get the information on the website. Ms. Fox questioned selling the Boone County Structures book at Split Rock. Mr. Clare stated that he believes the Board members will have to buy the books themselves and then sell them to get reimbursed.
 - 3) **Cemetery Workshop (May 15)** Ms. Wilcox stated that Ann Johnson will talk and show materials and do a little headstone cleaning. It will be a hands-on demonstration and the people present will also do some headstone cleaning. Mr. Becher will arrange to have water available. In response to questions from Mr. Bushelman, Ms. Wilcox explained that headstones are

cleaned for preservation purposes – the cleaning removes lichen and living materials that can cause the headstone to crack and split. Mr. Clare commented that the headstones do not look cleaned after they are done. Mr. Becher will talk to Jerry Garbett about what he is interested in doing at the workshop. This will be his first demonstration. He believes Jerry Garbett will be epoxying and resetting stones. Ms. Striker stated that it should be mentioned that people should not try to do that themselves and should contact Mr. Becher if they need a stone reassembled. Ms. Fox asked that Jerry Garbett bring business cards to give out at the workshop so that people can contact him directly and not go through Mr. Becher. Ms. Wilcox stated that Ann Johnson needs a letter from the Board stating the time and place, what she is expected to do, and that the Board is handling the registration. Mr. Becher will contact Ann Johnson. Ms. Striker asked if there will be a tour and questioned fundraising at the workshop. Ms. Wilcox questioned who would collect the money and where it would go. Ms. Fox stated that if Ms. Striker was there, she could take the money for Johnson-Wilson Cemetery and deposit it in their account, and then Johnson-Wilson could write a check to Huntington Bank. Ms. Striker responded that Johnson-Wilson has forms set up and she could give people a receipt on site. The Board agreed that this would be the best way to handle donations. Ms. Wilcox suggested that the Cemetery Workshop be publicized at Kenton County Library, Kenton County Historical Society, Northern Kentucky Genealogical Club, and Cincinnati Historical Society. Ms. Striker suggested that it be advertised in The Boone County Recorder and in the Karen Meiman article if it has not been published yet. **4) Preservation Awards**

Ceremony (May 20) Mr. Becher stated that the Awards Ceremony will be at the Old Courthouse in the courtroom next to his office. The County Seat will cater the event. He stated that Jan Garbett talked to Shirley Mann’s family and they are agreeable to an award in her name being presented.

- C. 2004 Preservation Awards (a) Nominees** Mr. Becher asked if there were any additional nominations.
- D. FY 2004 – 2005 Preservation Projects 1) Heritage Education Plan** Mr. Clare stated that Petersburg School is gone, the general store in Bellview bottoms has been torn down and significant architecture is being lost. He proposed a preservation project of studying, writing, and developing a Heritage Education Plan for students and adults that stresses preservation and the alternatives to demolition. He stated that the Building Inspector did not notify the Board about Petersburg School or the general store – but it is in the Subdivision Regulations that the Board is to be notified. Mr. Becher disagreed. He stated that when someone applies for a demolition permit is too late and John Stanton told him that there should be a “watch list”. He stated that the Board can make one property, or the whole county, a local landmark. Mr. Bushelman stated that people should have to get approval before demolishing buildings over a certain age. Mr. Clare stated that the county allowed \$300,000 to tear the building down and put up a metal building – compared to the \$120,000 it would have taken to rehab Petersburg School. It was less costly to rehab it than to tear it down. He stated that in many communities there are laws against demolishing old buildings and the Board could get copies of those regulations and copy them. Mr. Becher responded that it could be done in the Comprehensive Plan and now is the time to do it. He will talk to Mr. Costello about it. Ms. Fox asked if the first step would be to make Burlington

a Local Historic District. Mr. Becher agreed that would be a good approach. Ms. Fox questioned the benefits to the homeowner when individual properties are made historic landmarks. Mr. Clare responded that at one time there was an incentive through The Bank of Kentucky that they would create a low-interest revolving loan so that people could borrow money and renovate and then pay it back and use the money again for another project. He does not know if the bank would still be interested in doing that. He stated that the Board is not going to make laws and the issue is education. People need to be educated on the alternatives to demolition. There need to be incentives like revolving loans and tax credits. He proposed a CLG grant to study heritage education and heritage preservation – how to go about it and who to contact. After the study is done, it can be presented to the Planning Commission and Fiscal Court for inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Becher stated that he will find out about doing a cemetery study or doing this study. He stated that most of the work can be done in-house, but there will also be a need to hire a consultant – but he does not think a consultant will do much for \$2,500. Ms. Fox questioned doing both projects. Ms. Striker questioned which project – heritage education or cemeteries – would be the higher priority if they cannot both be done for \$2,500. Mr. Clare responded that more buildings are being lost than cemeteries and there is an urgency to heritage education – and this is an opportune time because we are in the Comprehensive Plan process. Mr. Striker stated that cemeteries could be included as part of heritage education instead of there being two projects. Mr. Becher stated that there is an ordinance for cemeteries and they will take care of themselves but the buildings will not. **Mr. Clare moved that the Board request that Mr. Costello and the Planning Commission consider funding a Preservation Awareness Plan with a cemetery component study in Fiscal Year 2004 – 2005. Ms. Striker seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

- E. Other**
- 1) Oral History Program** Ms. Wilcox stated that Bruce Ferguson did an oral history interview with Betty Ruggier. When Dave Beasley returns from vacation, he will try to interview Don Roberts. Hanna Baird is too ill to be interviewed. Mr. Bushelman suggested interviewing Hop Ewing who was Mayor of Florence for twenty years.
 - 2) Snow's Pond** Mr. Becher stated that Snow's Pond, a Civil War encampment site, is being bulldozed and redeveloped. In response to comments from Mr. Clare, Mr. Becher stated that they do not have to do an archaeological study, but they do have to stay away from the cemetery.
 - 3) Hopeful Lutheran Church** Mr. Becher stated that the church will be doing construction on a part of the property that has not been disturbed for a long time and wants an archaeological study done there. He spoke with Jeannine Kreinbrink and she will do her summer field school at the church property. It will be a two-week project of excavation and research. Mr. Clare stated that in Petersburg there was a community meeting and they cleaned artifacts. He stated that Jeannine might be willing to do an outreach project. Mr. Becher will contact her and report at the next meeting. Ms. Striker suggested getting someone from the newspaper to come and take pictures. Ms. Fox suggested making the church aware of how much their preservation effort is appreciated and that the church be an award candidate next year.
 - 4) Cemetery Letters** Mr. Becher stated that he sent out 205 cemetery letters yesterday.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Bushelman moved to adjourn. Ms. Striker seconded the motion and it was approved by all. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM. The next meeting of The Historic Preservation Review Board will be on April 8, 2004 at 5 PM in the Old Clerk's Building behind the Administration Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Hancock, Recording Secretary

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

Pat Fox, Chairperson
Historic Preservation Review Board

Date