

Boone County Historic Preservation Review Board
Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2017
5:00 PM

The Boone County Historic Preservation Review Board held their monthly meeting on the above date in the Rabbit Hash Barn, Lower River Road, Rabbit Hash, KY.

- I. **Call to Order.** There being a quorum of the membership present, Chair Pat Wingo called the meeting to order at 5:04 PM.

- II. **Roll Call.** Review Board members present were Chair Pat Wingo, Vice-Chair Bridget Striker, Secretary Tom Schiffer, Pat Berry, and Lisa Hoffman. Also present was Matt Becher representing the Staff of the Boone County Planning Commission. Pat Fox joined the meeting at 5:20 PM.

- III. **Approval of Minutes.** Ms. Hoffman moved to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2017, Review Board business as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Berry and approved unanimously.

- IV. **Item Updates**
 1. **Old Boone County Courthouse.** Mr. Becher reported that the rehab project continues and remains on schedule for completion in October. Crews finished excavating the elevator pit in the Annex and final demolition and abatement of the asbestos flooring the Courtroom should commence soon. The masonry contractor has obtained three pallets of brick salvaged from a recently demolished Covington building. They are a very good match in both dimensions and color to the original courthouse brick, which was fired on site during construction. Exterior masonry and roofing work should begin as soon as the weather permits.

 2. **Cemeteries in Union and at CVG.** Mr. Becher received an update from Jeannine Kreinbrink on May 4, who has no new information to report about the Popham and Barlow/Crisler Cemeteries at the airport. The required 60 day public notification period for Barlow/Crisler will be up in late May, so a request for declaration of abandonment may come before Fiscal Court in June. Regarding the Old Bethel Church Cemetery in Union, Ms. Kreinbrink noted that remote sensing will be used (as soon as weather permits) to try and identify grave shafts. The developer (Drees) has already indicated that they intend to preserve the cemetery in greenspace within the housing development.

 3. **Carl Bankemper Archive.** Since the board's last meeting in April, Mr. Becher visited the Kenton County Public Library's History Department to look at their collection of Bankemper materials. The collection appears to include at least 3 boxes of files and several dozen sets of rolled architectural plans. As mentioned previously, architect Chris Meyer of Hub & Weber, Inc. learned of

the collection and has begun scanning selected drawings. His scan of Betz & Bankemper's 1957 design for the Courthouse Annex was helpful in designing the rehab plans. Mr. Meyer expects to continue scanning the plans as time allows. Mr. Becher made a quick inventory of the 3 known boxes of files and found that 2 boxes are dedicated almost entirely to the 1970 Kenton City-County Building, which was a massive project. The 3rd box is filled mostly with files relating to the 1981 Boone County Administration Building. Librarian Elaine Kuhn believes there may be additional boxes of files, but the entire collection has never been assessed and was left in some disarray after the move into the new library building. Ms. Kuhn did locate donation letters from 1982, which list the materials in the collection. The letters include a catalog of the 30-odd rolled drawings, along with nearly 50 renderings of various shapes and sizes. These renderings could be the most important part of the collection, although they have not yet been located. Mr. Becher's goal is to develop a catalog of Bankemper works, primarily to determine what he designed in Boone County. Mr. Meyer is looking at it from an architect's point of view. If there are sufficient materials, they have agreed to collaborate on an article for *Northern Kentucky Heritage Magazine*, although it will be a "back burner" project for both and not something likely to happen until at least 2018.

- 4. Other: Piner Property.** Mr. Becher commented that he received an email on May 9 from Scott Fennell of NKU's Center for Applied Ecology about the potential for salvage of the Miller House on the Piner Property at Big Bone Lick. He has agreed to meet Mr. Fennell on site May 22 to discuss their proposal and will discuss the results of that meeting at the board's June meeting.

V. Items for Discussion and/or Action

- 1. 2017 Preservation Awards: Nominees and Reception.** Mr. Becher noted that the event program for the 2017 Boone County Preservation Awards was sent with monthly packets. The reception will follow the board meeting in the barn, with "doors" opening at 6:00pm and presentations beginning at 6:30pm. Between board members, himself, the Rabbit Hash Historical Society, and NKY Preservation Coalition, all the event particulars have been covered. As of 10am, May 5, he had over 50 RSVP's, not including anyone from Rabbit Hash. Since the county's elected officials are attending a special budget meeting, Mr. Becher will do a little introductory talk relative to this year's National Trust "This Place Matters" theme.
- 2. Walton CCC Camp Marker Dedication.** Mr. Becher reported that this newest Kentucky Historic Highway marker was unveiled the afternoon of May 4. Due to the wet weather, the dedication event was held in the multi-purpose room at Walton-Verona Middle School. Speakers included Betsy Conrad, Judge Moore, Sara Elliot (Kentucky Historical Society), Dr. Robert Storer (Walton-Verona Schools Superintendent), and himself. Asa Rouse also shared his

vivid memories of visiting the CCC camp at age 7. J.B. McCubbin, who is now 91, has equally vivid memories of his visit to the camp at age 11. Betsy Conrad noted that this is the 9th Historic Highway Marker the BCHS has sponsored in the last 5 years, bringing the total 24. They are planning to purchase one last marker (John Uri Lloyd/Stringtown on the Pike) in Florence with their remaining Bicentennial funds, which is possible if the City of Florence splits the cost with them. They have again requested assistance from Mr. Becher and the Library's Local History Dept.

3. **Boone County Comprehensive Plan Goals & Objectives.** The Review Board's comments to the existing Comprehensive Plan Preservation Goals & Objectives (G&O) were formally submitted to the Planning Commission on April 12. Planning Commission staff (including Mr. Becher) is considering them, along with all other comments received to date. Staff expects to present them to the Planning Commission's Long Range Committee on May 31. Staff will presumably then begin revising the G&O based on comments received and direction from the Long Range Committee.
4. **Old Burlington Cemetery.** Mr. Becher commented that he added this to the agenda due to concerns raised by Sheri Neu and new board member Dr. Jackson, who was unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Striker stated that the issue is actually related to the Burlington IOOF Cemetery on KY 18 rather than the Old Burlington Cemetery on Bullittsville Rd. The problem has been discussed in the past and concerns the disposition and long-term care (or lack thereof) of the African-American portion of that cemetery. The AA section was originally started by a local Pilgrim Lodge and records and ownership were later transferred to a Pilgrim Lodge in Cincinnati. The section is actually a separate parcel from the larger cemetery and ownership and responsibility for maintenance is problematic. This item will be included on the next Review Board agenda.

There being no further business to come before the board, Mr. Schiffer made a motion to adjourn at 5:30 PM. Ms. Fox seconded and all present agreed. The next business meeting of the Historic Preservation Review Board will be June 8, 2017, at the Boone County Administration Building.

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