

KENDALL COUNTY
Historic Preservation Commission
County Boardroom
111 W. Fox Street
Rooms 209 and 210 Yorkville, IL 60560
6:00 p.m.
November 18, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jeff Wehrli called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Kristine Heiman

Also Present: Matt Asselmeier and Wanda A. Rolf

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Flowers made a motion, seconded by Member Shanahan, to approve the agenda. With a voice vote of four (4) ayes, the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Flowers made a motion, seconded by Member Shanahan, to approve the minutes from the October 21, 2024, meeting. With a voice vote of four (4) ayes, the motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Wehrli stated that he, Member Shanahan, and Mr. Asselmeier toured The Stone Church in Plano, a Mormon Church that was constructed in 1868 to serve as the headquarters for the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Chairman Wehrli stated that the church is not used every week. The church was being used as a meeting place for a National Church Meeting during the tour.

Member Shanahan stated the congregation has dispersed and the church is being used for private events. Chairman Wehrli stated that there is another building with classrooms. Member Shanahan stated that the building with classrooms has a kitchen in it that can be used for private events and meetings. The building has new plumbing and heating. Mr. Asselmeier asked if The Stone Church would be able to host the February Historic Preservation Meeting. Mr. Asselmeier stated that The Stone Church was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of 2025 Meeting with Historic Preservation Groups

Mr. Asselmeier spoke about the CLG grant having been submitted and the possibility of having Ken Itle, from Wiss, Janney, Elstner, Associates, Inc., speak at the February Historic Preservation Meeting. Mr. Itle would be able to inform the Commission of what the structure survey will entail. This structure survey will be done in

Na-Au-Say and Seward Townships. It was previously done in Bristol and Kendall Townships. Mr. Asselmeier presented an email from Benn Joseph who might be willing to speak about The Tribune Experimental Farm. The historic structure survey could also be a topic. Mr. Asselmeier stated that potentially there would be three (3) speakers at the meeting in February, Mr. Ken Itle, Mr. Benn Joseph and a representative from The Stone Church.

Discussion of Historic Preservation Award

Mr. Asselmeier presented an email from the Village of Oswego regarding the Oswego Firehouse. Mr. Asselmeier spoke about Chairman Wehrli desire to focus on “adaptive reuse of a building” as one of the award designations. The Commission requested a list of previous nominees for historic preservation awards.

Discussion of 13860 Fox Road

Mr. Asselmeier said that he has not received an update on the property. The State has been trying to find a contractor to fix or replace the roof as well as other repairs.

Discussion of Having Commission Meetings at Historic Locations in the County; Commission Could Determine Meeting Locations and Times

Mr. Asselmeier spoke about the old Yorkville School Center Street. This school is listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1995. Mr. Asselmeier will contact the property for availability.

Mr. Asselmeier spoke about The Evelyn Site located outside of Newark. The Evelyn Site, also referred to as Illinois Archaeological Survey No. Ke-52, is a twelve (12) acre archaeological site near Newark in Big Grove Township. The site contained utensils from a camp or village on a dried-up lake dating from the early to middle Archaic period, roughly around 1650 B.C. Mr. Asselmeier stated that since there is no building on site, so it makes it difficult to have a meeting there.

Mr. Asselmeier mentioned The Plano Hotel. Member Shanahan stated that the upper two (2) levels of The Plano Hotel were being renovated into residential units. It is not known when The Plano Hotel will be available for any meetings. Mr. Asselmeier stated the Commission is looking at The Stone Church, The Sears House, and The Lewis Steward House. Chairman Wehrli mentioned the Gaylord House. Mr. Asselmeier stated that the Gaylord House was sold. Member Bernacki stated there were a lot of historic places in the City of Plano. Mr. Asselmeier stated that Plano was the largest city in Kendall County for a long time. The Historic Preservation Commission will keep trying to locate historic places in Kendall County to have meetings.

Discussion of Native American Tribes Associated with Kendall County

Mr. Asselmeier stated he sent an email to The Edith Farnsworth House to gather information as to what the event will be about, who the target audience will be and what the date will be. Mr. Asselmeier has not heard back from the Edith Farnsworth House.

Chairman Wehrli asked Mr. Asselmeier if he spoke to David Guritz with the Kendall County Forest Preserve District has had successful presentations for school children in the past with Native American Tribes. Mr. Asselmeier will contact Mr. Guritz. Chairman Wehrli would like to know how the Native Americans lived. Mr. Asselmeier will be in touch with The Edith Farnsworth House.

CORRESPONDENCE

November 8, 2024, Email from Wiss, Janney, Elstner, Associates Regarding Historic Structures Report
Commissioners reviewed the email.

November 10, 2024, Email from the Edith Farnsworth House Regarding the 2024 Review and Appeal

Commissioners reviewed the email.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Asselmeier stated that the Historic Preservation Commission voted to have their monthly meetings start at 5:30 p.m. If the County Board approves the calendar for next year, the Historic Preservation meeting would be held at 5:30 p.m. on December 16, 2024.

Mr. Asselmeier stated the County Board approved the new County Code and citations inside the application for historic structures and districts have been updated. Chairman Wehrli asked if the Commission has the ability to review applications of demolitions of historic buildings. Mr. Asselmeier stated that this type of review was not presently included in the County Code. Chairman Wehrli stated he would like to look at buildings with historic significance that were going to be demolished to possibly form an opinion and advise property owners on preservation. Mr. Asselmeier will look into adding this into the County Code.

Chairman Wehrli stated he would like to have terminology to label cemeteries as historic in to possibly help clean up the cemeteries. Member Bernacki spoke about the State providing grant funds to veterans' organizations to maintain veterans' cemeteries. Chairman Wehrli asked Mr. Asselmeier if he thought historic designation was a possibility. Mr. Asselmeier stated it depends on who owns the cemetery. If a grant was available to help maintain a private cemetery that would be acceptable. Other townships maintain cemeteries such as Little Rock Township and Seward Township. Mr. Asselmeier will find out what funds are available to maintain cemeteries.

Member Bernacki asked what the timeline is for the structure survey. Mr. Asselmeier stated the awardees will be announced in January. Member Bernacki asked, if the CLG grant is awarded, what would the timeline be for starting the structure survey. Mr. Asselmeier stated that the work may start in February or March and would have to be finished by mid-2026.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Flowers made a motion, seconded by Member Bernacki, to adjourn. With a voice vote of four (4) ayes, the motion carried. The Historic Preservation Commission adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wanda A. Rolf
Administrative Assistant