



McHenry County
Historic Preservation Commission - Public
Meeting
MINUTES

August 6, 2025, 6:00 PM
County Board Conference Room
Administration Building, 667 Ware Rd., Woodstock, IL 60098

Members Present: Stuart Thiel, Anthony Alfaro, Kirk Donald, Peter Gussie Sarah Taylor

Members Absent: Sarah Metivier-Schadt, Dawn Milarski, Rachell Horbenko,

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at: 6:12 PM by Chairman Gussie

2. APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINUTES

Mover: Stuart Thiel

Second: Kirk Donald

Approve previous minutes

Approved by Voice

3. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

None.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

5. MEMBERS' COMMENTS

It was mentioned that the HPC website has the agenda and minutes from past meetings up to 2020 only. Ms. Scharlow said we could put a link to the McHenry County Meeting Portal so as not to constantly have to update the website.

There was discussion on the status of The Crystal Lake Academy. The landmark vote with the City of Crystal Lake is still postponed.

6. OLD BUSINESS

6.1 McHenry County Historic Preservation Network Meeting - Commissioner Gussie

Chairman Gussie said Quinn Adamowski from Landmarks will be doing a presentation on their programs and discussing current and past projects they have done in McHenry County.

Chairman Gussie said he is working on getting other presentations lined up so he suggests keeping the current meeting date. He will create the agenda and send out the invites.

Chairman Gussie has the contact list from a now defunct historical group and asked the Commission if they should extend invitations to that list even though some are outside of McHenry County. It was agreed that they should send the invites to that list.

6.2 Outreach to Owners of Potential Landmark Properties - Commissioner Metivier Schadt

Ms. Jacobson presented a list of the potential Landmark sites.

Chairman Gussie inquired if the Commission wanted to send the letter out to all the properties at once or if they preferred to send in batches to see the feedback they get each time. It was agreed that they should send to all properties at the same time.

Chairman Gussie said he would forward documents to be included with the letter regarding tax credits/property tax freeze.

6.3 Scenic Drive Updates - Commissioner Gussie

Ms. Scharlow said she was contacted by a resident near Marengo saying four to five (4-5) Scenic Drive signs along River Road are in bad condition. Ms. Scharlow and Ms. Jacobson went and confirmed that two (2) of the signs are very faded. They will get a cost estimate to replace the signs. Chairman Gussie said he believes we should hold off on ordering new signs as they may want to add a QR code as a part of the transition to the online format.

Chairman Gussie spoke with Amanda from the GIS Department and took down his questions to further discuss with her colleagues and said they would get back to him.

6.4 Prescott Whittemore Landmark Status

Ms. Jacobson has reached out to a couple of companies including Don's Woodworking Company which is the company the City of McHenry's Historic Preservation Commission uses for their plaques. She will continue getting more quotes.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Sullivan Barn

Ms. Anne Sullivan reached out to inquire if her family's barn qualifies for landmarking. She said her family is going to have a meeting to discuss their plans for the barn as some members want to demolish it. She wants to gather information to take to the meeting in hopes she can convince the rest of the family to preserve the barn. Chairman Gussie suggested contacting Ms. Sullivan to see if a site visit could be scheduled to go look at the barn.

8. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

None.

9. STAFF REPORT

None.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

10.1 Next Regular Meeting September 03, 2025

11. ADJOURNMENT

Mover: Kirk Donald

Seconded: Stuart Thiel

To adjourn the meeting at 6:47 PM

Approved by Voice