

09-11-2024

**HPC Committee Meeting
Supplemental Packet**

AFTON HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION Minutes

January 10, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER 6:05pm

2. ROLL CALL

Here Chair Edwards
Here Vice Chair Livingston
Here Commissioner Bolton-Iverson
Here Commissioner Vujovich
Here Commissioner Thomas

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A. Approval of Agenda for January 10, 2024 meeting: Vujovick/Livingston; pass

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of the December 12, 2023 Meeting: Vujovick/Livingston; pass

5. BUSINESS

Leslie Thomas, AHS: 1. Afton Museum awarded Interpretative Grant from MN Legacy funds; 2. Museum is looking for anyone living in Afton since 1950's for oral history project; 3. Updated Old Village Walking Tour emailed to commission; 4. Leslie viewed one of the online Stillwater walking tours; 5. Information about Kelles Creek and Leslie's old house (possible residence of Jenny Peters); 6. AHS is happy to collect stories for the commission's online walking tour project and to review drafts but will need time to do so.

A. Walking Tour Project (Kate)

a. Updated Old Village Walking Tour File from Afton Historical Museum

Kate projected 3 Stillwater websites that Matt Thueson showed her as part of his offer to host the Afton Old Village Walking Tour online.

<https://www.stillwatermn.gov/community/around-town/historic-walking-tours> (video)

<https://www.lensflarestillwater.org/> Hosted by Bob Molenda; very interactive

<https://www.stillwaterhistory.com/> Not live yet! Matt is constructing this site; Afton's tour will be here

Matt can put us in touch with Bob Molenda if we want to consider a grant to hire him to create an interactive historic website for Afton. Or we can hire Matt at some future point to create an interactive map like the one on the stillwaterhistory.com site so that we click on the location and the site pops up.

For now, Matt is offering to upload Afton's walking tour with a basic layout of one map at the top of the site, followed by a list of sites (clickable), with text and photos for each site. Each will have a tag line to contact the Afton Museum if you have stories about the site ("I Have a Story!" and to contact the Heritage Commission if you have a site you'd like to be considered for the list ("I Want to be Listed!").

Matt is willing to update the Afton walking tour with stories once or twice a year. Eventually, he also wants to offer his technology for a clickable map for the sites. He's not sure when he'll be ready or what the price will be. We will stay in touch.

Matt also shared Stillwater's "Heirloom Homes" site <http://www.stillwater-mn.org/hpc/> where homeowners can get recognition for their home's history without a historic designation. It's something we can think about as a future program.

- Walking Tour sites: paper brochure contains 28 sites; we want to sync with the paper version as much as possible. Leslie agreed that the paper walking tour brochure will add the missing local historic properties: Emil Asp Blacksmith shop; Putnam House; Bolles Mill roadside marker.
- The online tour will duplicate the paper walking tour and we want to add interesting stories and pictures of these 4 businesses: **Museum, Afton Inn, Selma's, Brick Schoolhouse (now a B&B)**. Members agreed that **Squire House** should be added as well as the **Public Park** and **Putnam House (red)**. **Total = 7 sites**. Leslie agreed to start collecting stories and photos for these sites but noted they can't do it all at once as they only have volunteers at the museum.
- We will add stories and more photos for the other locally designated sites after the initial 7 sites are finished: Emil Asp Blacksmith shop; Asa and Flora Tracy House; Steamboat Landing Park; Citizen State Bank; Bolles Mill roadside marker. The online tour will have email links for people to suggest other sites and share others stories and photos.

b. QR Signs

Matt agreed that we can have one QR code that will go directly to a map and list of the sites.

- The metal QR signs from the Stillwater group are 8" x 8", \$82 each. Do we want them to be larger? What is the cost if we do not use the Stillwater group's design and size?
- We decided that the signs do not need to conform to the Afton Design Guidelines since they are not hanging on a building for a business but are more like speed limit and parking signs attached to posts at the curb.
- How many signs do we want? Will they go in front of all 7 historic sites or just the 5 that we are initially highlighting in the online walking tour (? Maybe also at the crosswalk by Selma's, back by the marinas, at City Hall and on the park bulletin boards?)
- From the discussion, Kate drafted this illustration for the HPC to begin its design discussion:



B. Grant Application for Plaques for Historic Sites

The draft will be submitted in 2 days, Jan 12th. We still need accurate estimates for the cost and installation of the signs for the final grant.

- Jacob will create a design for the historic plaques.
- Peter will create an estimate for plaque cost and installation.
- Will installation be on a post or attached to the building? Consider either depending on the site and location of the building (near a sidewalk or not?).

Bissell Mounds update: Jim Cox called Ron with news of the mounds. Jill read the initial reports and saw only anecdotal evidence to suggest that they were indigenous mounds. Belwin has evidence they are natural.

- Ron will talk with Jim Cox to see if there is an updated report with new evidence.

C. February Meeting Date: not discussed

6. ADJOURNMENT: Vujovick/Livingston; 7:30pm