



# MCHENRY COUNTY

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION

### MINUTES • MAY 15, 2019

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**Public Meeting**

**Ford School**

**7:00 PM**

**304 Ramble Road, Lake in the Hills, IL 60156**

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#### **I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

McHenry County Historic Preservation Commissioners present: Alfonso Casal, Derek Gablenz, Melody Jacobson, and Susan Zeller.

Also present were Staff Liaison Sean Foley, and Survey Committee volunteer Lynn Gray.

A majority of a quorum, but not a full quorum, was present at 7:00 p.m., and no business agenda was discussed with the exception of the Ford School, which currently has a landmark designation application pending. The purpose of the meeting was for fact gathering related to the pending application.

#### **II. OLD BUSINESS / ACTION ITEMS**

##### ***A. Tour of Ford School***

A tour of the Old Ford School was conducted by Mr. Robert Spooner of the Lake in the Hills Historical Society. It is a one-room schoolhouse with a vestibule in the front part of the building. Mr. Spooner gave details about the original owners of the property upon which the school now stands. He noted that the school had been moved in the mid-1940s to another site further west on and across the street on Huntley-Algonquin Road. In 2012 the school was moved back to the present and original site. The only difference that the building sits on a concrete foundation and the front of the building faces north instead of south, as it had originally faced. This is due to the fact that the property is no longer accessible from Algonquin Road, so it faces Ramble Road now. Much of the original siding was intact, and what was missing or damaged was replaced with like materials.

Mr. Spooner moved the tour to the interior of the school house, explaining the various artifacts on display and the restoration activities that have taken place over the past seven or so years. The original construction dates to 1886, while the period the restoration recreates it in circa 1920s-1930s era. In that time period, for example, electric lighting was present, and period-style lighting has been installed, based on the original style of lightning known to have been in the schoolhouse. The original windows, which were mostly intact, were restored, and one missing window was reconstructed from scratch. Wooden flooring was partially intact. Missing boards were replaced with like materials. Bead board paneling was also largely intact, while missing sections were reconstructed from scratch by the Historical Society's expert carpenter. Other period furnishings, such as desks and chalkboards, have been added to give the schoolhouse an authentic representation of what it would have been like in the period. Mr. Spooner explained that a large amount of historic documentation had been preserved by the Ebel family, members of which had attended the school and one member had been on the school's Board of Directors.

#### **III. ADJOURNMENT**

At the conclusion of the tour at 8:10 p.m., the commissioners and staff liaison briefly discussed what the next step in the landmark review would be. Mr. Foley said one of the Survey Committee should prepare a report and recommendation on whether or not to proceed with a public hearing. The general consensus was that the Ford School is landmark-worthy, and Ms. Jacobson volunteered to write the report and recommendation. The meeting was concluded at 8:20 p.m.