

**CITY OF BELVIDERE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
A G E N D A**

**Tuesday, March 22, 2022
City Hall Council Chambers
401 Whitney Boulevard
5:30 pm**

ROLL CALL

Members:

Claudia Colla, Vice-Chair
Alexandra Omiotek
Sonya Dobberfuhl
David Larson
Dawn Brooks
Vacant
Vacant

Staff:

Gina DelRose, Community Development Planner

Ex-Officio:

Clint Morris, Mayor

MINUTES: February 22, 2022

PUBLIC COMMENT

NEW BUSINESS: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Work Plan

2022 Awards Program: None
Promotional/Fundraising Events: April- Stained Glass Window Tour
Maintenance Small Grant: None.
10 Year Plan: None.
Expenditures: None.
Friends of Preservation: None.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Images of America Belvidere and Boone County

Royalties- No update
Book Sales- No update.

DISCUSSION:

Newsletter

COMMUNICATIONS/PLANNING REPORTS:

Staff Report:

Next Meeting Date: April 26, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

**CITY OF BELVIDERE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
February 22, 2022
5:30 pm
City Hall, 401 Whitney Boulevard**

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Claudia Colla, Vice-Chair
Sonya Dobberfuhl
David Larson
Alexandra Omiotek

Staff Present:

Gina DelRose, Community Development Planner

Members Absent:

Claudia Colla called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Work Plan

2021 Awards Program: Gina DelRose stated that it appears the house next to the library has completed the exterior painting.

Promotional/Fundraising Events: Gina DelRose stated that she has booked the Boone County Museum of History for Saturday, April 2, 2022 started at 10am. Gina DelRose stated that she would like to see a minimum of four churches participating.

Gina DelRose stated that box lunches will be provided similar to those ordered for the scavenger hunt fundraiser. Refreshments can be provided at the churches as well if the church is in agreement.

The Commission determined that the costs of a ticket will be \$25.00 which will cover the lunches, thank you gifts and advertisement.

David Larson arrived at 5:55 pm.

David Larson stated that he is still reaching out to Holy Trinity Church.

Sonya Dobberfuhl stated that she has reached out to St. James Church.

Sandie Omiotek stated that she has reached out to St. John's United Church of Christ and First Presbyterian.

Claudia Colla stated that she has reached out to Calvary Baptist Church.

Gina DelRose stated that she has reached out to Zion Lutheran Church and More to Life Ministries.

**City of Belvidere
Historic Preservation Commission
February 22, 2022
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MINUTES: It was moved and seconded (Dobberfuhl/Omiotek) to approve the minutes of the November 30, 2021 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Maintenance Small Grant: Gina DelRose stated that she sent out grant applications to qualifying property owners.

Gina DelRose stated that the property owner for 410 South State Street submitted a paid invoice and pictures of the awning that was installed. The total reimbursement will be \$432.00

It was moved and seconded (Dobberfuhl/Omiotek) to approve the reimbursement of \$432.00 for the work completed at 410 South State Street. Motion carried with a 4-0 voice vote.

10 Year Plan:

Expenditures: No updates.

Friends of Preservation: No updates.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Images of American Belvidere and Boone County

Royalties: No updates.

Book Sales: 9 postcard books were sold

DISCUSSION:

Newsletter- Gina DelRose stated that newsletters will be sent out as soon as the fundraiser is finalized.

Gina DelRose introduced Dawn Brooks who is anticipated to be appointed to the Commission.

Staff Report: Gina DelRose stated that there will be a segment regarding Lustron Houses on WGN and the daughter of a gentleman who wrote a book about the houses has contacted her for information about the four in Belvidere.

Sonya Dobberfuhl stated that she has been researching the history of Lustron Houses and the families that owned them in Belvidere. She wrote an article about her research that will be in the Boone County Journal.

NEXT MEETING DATE: March 22, 2022

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:28 pm.

Recorded by

Gina DelRose
Community Development Planner

**Belvidere Historic Preservation
Commission Presents**

STAINED GLASS WINDOW TOUR

**Of City's Historic Churches With
A Presentation About Stained Glass
By Gary Blatchford**



**SATURDAY, APRIL 2ND
10 AM-2 PM**

**TICKETS
(INCLUDES LUNCH)
\$25 - 16 & OLDER
\$15 - UNDER 16**

**Proceeds will be used for
the Historic Property
Maintenance Program**

**Tickets can be purchased at the Community
Development Department at Belvidere City Hall,
401 Whitney Blvd., email Gina at
gdelrose@ci.belvidere.il.us or call (815)547-7177**

**BELVIDERE HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
COMMISSION**

**The History
Keeper is
meant to
keep
residents
and land-
owners of
historic
properties
within the
City of
Belvidere
informed
about the
assistance
available to
them and to
keep them
informed
about the
latest
happenings.**

The History Keeper

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

MARCH 2022

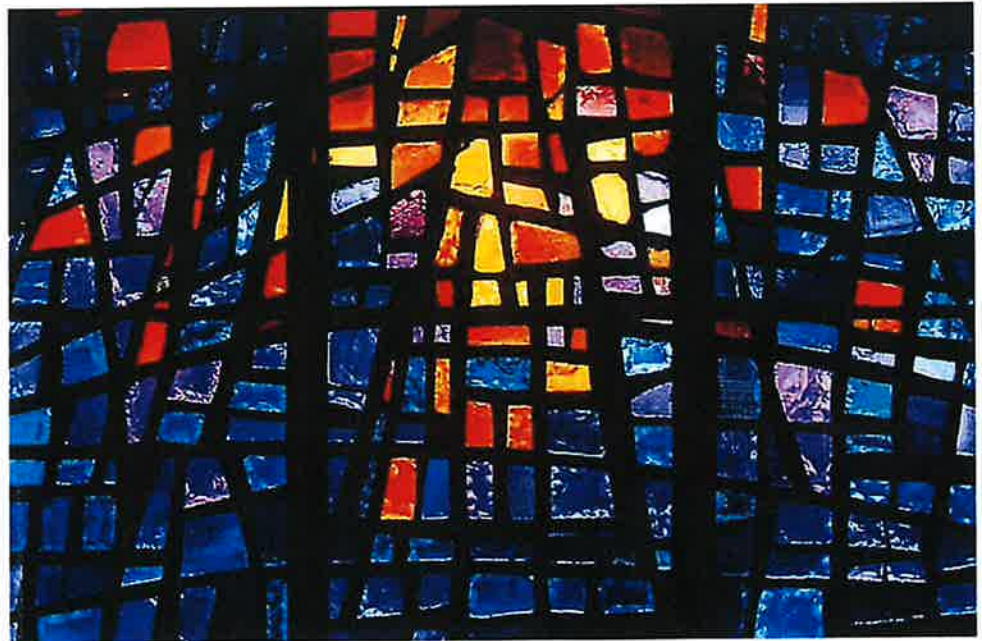
Spring Fundraiser

The Belvidere Historic Preservation Commission will be hosting a fall fundraiser on April 2, 2022. This family friendly fundraiser will highlight the City's historic churches while raising money for the Historic Property Maintenance Program.

What fun adventure is the Commission planning, you ask? Well, it will be a stained glass window tour of four local churches (possibly more!) with a presentation by the Boone County Museum of History. Participants will get tours of the churches plus a presentation on the history of their beautiful windows. Tickets will be \$25 for those over 16 and \$15 for those 15 and under. Lunch will be provided. Tickets can be purchased at the Community Development Department at Belvidere City Hall, 401 Whitney Boulevard, or you can contact Gina DelRose at gdelrose@ci.belvidere.il.us or 815-547-7177. More details will be announced later on the Commission's Facebook page and in the Boone County Shopper and Boone County Journal.

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Foote



If Walls Could Talk
By: Kathy Sterbenc,
Belvidere Daily Re-
publican (Originally
appeared in August 6,
1990 issue of BDR)

Address:
303 E. Lincoln Ave.,
Belvidere, IL 61008
Style: Prairie Style
with Colonial Revival
Details
Year Built: 1913

Belvidere pharmacist John Foote built a state-of-the-art, Prairie style home in 1913, but lived only four years to enjoy it.

RUNS IN THE FAMILY- John Crocker Foote was born in Hamilton, N.Y., in 1841. He moved to Belvidere in 1869 after taking over the Hamilton drug store of his father, John "J.J." Foote. Foote opened his Belvidere pharmacy, the J.C. Foote Drug Store, in 1870. It apparently was located in the Foote Building at 508 S. State St. for decades. Practicing with John was his second cousin, Daniel E. Foote, M.D. Daniel was one of Belvidere's first physicians, coming here in 1854.

John's father served as a New York state senator, supervisor of the Boone County Agricultural Society, and Belvidere's representative on the County Board of Supervisors. He retired to a farm near Belvidere. Meanwhile, John was elected in 1883 as one of our first city treasurers.

Success ran in the Foote family. J.J.'s grandfather, Isaac Foote, served on the Connecticut State Legislature. A judge, Isaac represented his area in the general convention during the writing of the U.S. Constitution.

John and his wife had three daughters, Helen, May and Florence. All of them survived him when he died early in the morning of July 12, 1917, at home.

First Presbyterian Church bought the house in 1928 for \$15,000 and used it for church functions. Countless couples were married in a chapel there; Boy Scouts roamed the halls, and toddlers played in the remodeled library and solarium. Women's groups held meetings and functions there, and the minister's office was upstairs. When missionaries stayed in town, they had bedrooms in the Foote house. Church printing was done in the basement. The church made the only exterior change, adding a door to the basement on the southeast corner of the house.

Ronald Semevolos bought the house in 1972 and began restoring damaged walls and woodwork. He sold the house in August 1988 to current owners Ed and Sherry Marx, who work non-stop to restore the house to its original glory.

PRAIRIE STYLE- The 20-room Foote house is a Prairie style home with post-1900 Colonial Revival details. The house, like 25 percent of Colonial Revival homes, is a two-story rectangular block with hipped roofs. The foundation of rough-cut, regular-course stone leads into fired-brick walls. What we call the front porch is actually the one-story "porte cochere," built to load and unload carriage passengers comfortably in all weather. It's supported by round, classical columns. The back porch is really a "portico," a roof supported by columns.

Paired, single-sash windows over the porte cochere light a stairway to the second floor. Many of the house's other windows are double-hung with "lights," or smaller panes, in the upper sash. Many windows also have granite sills.

Foote Continued...

Two full-height bay windows dominate the northeast side of the house, with bays in the large living room and two upstairs bedrooms. The low-hipped roof has wide, overhanging eaves accented with dentils, or notched trim. The front dormer has a flat roof and four windows in a row called a "ribbon." The other dormers have hipped roofs and three windows in a row, called "triplets." The original chimneys are corralled, meaning one or more courses of masonry protrude for the surface of the chimney. The fireplace in the living room is made of iridescent tile. The mantel's cornice (the multi-layered sides) have "reeded" pilasters running down the front and sides of the fireplace. The original andirons rest in front of the fireplace.

Foote used all of the modern methods available when building the house. Ed Marx said the house was one of the first to use conduit wiring, the method still used for electricity. Foote also was one of the first homebuilders to have hand-poured concrete walls.

He also showed genius in his generous use of another modern convenience—walk-in closets.

2021/2022 Historic Preservation Awards

We are looking for nominations for our awards program this fall! Properties do not need to be landmarked but projects must be completed or will be completed by the event. The awards program recognizes those property owners that have renovated and/or restored an aspect of their historic property, an organization that has supported historic preservation, an individual that has supported Belvidere' History and a property that has not necessarily undergone a renovation but has always maintained their building and yard. If you know a property worthy of recognition, please contact Gina DelRose at 815-547-7774 or gdelrose@ci.belvidere.il.us

Congratulations to the 2021 Historic Preservation Award winners!

Achievement Awards: Frank Stechmuller, 501 Logan Avenue, Beverly Gibson, 405 W. Hurlbut Avenue, John Ahrens, 204 N. State Street, Donna Buch, 521 S. State Street.

Organization Award: K-B Farms Inc; Continued Excellence Award: Thomas Rosa, 121 W. Macomb Street; Priem Award- Mindy Long; Downtown Revitalization Award: Russ Caldwell.



2021 Historic Property Maintenance Program



The Belvidere Historic Preservation Commission awards four property maintenance grants for exterior renovations. 405 West Hurlbut Avenue was awarded funds to assist in repainting the exterior of the home and commercial properties at 409 S. State Street, 410 S. State Street and 426 S. State Street were awarded funds for windows, doors, brick repair and paint. Unfortunately due to material shortages and rising costs of those materials available, many of the projects have been delayed.

The Historic Property Maintenance Program is funded by various fundraisers hosted by the Commission and Images of America book sales. Any property that is locally or nationally landmarked or located within a registered historic district is eligible to apply for the annual grant funds to assist in exterior renovations.

Resource Corner!

Love going to museums? Then you will want to have the Encurate App on your phone! This app provides information about participating museums such as virtual tours and lets you search by interest so you know what museums to visit! Visit their Facebook page for more information before downloading their app. <https://www.facebook.com/encurate/>

Belvidere Historic Preservation Commission

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The Belvidere Historic Preservation Commission (the Commission) has been a part of the community for decades. The Commission is comprised of seven members who live in Boone County and work for or own property within the City of Belvidere as well as a staff liaison. The Commission's goal is to promote the protection, enhancement, perpetuation and use of improvements of special character or historical interest or value for the health, prosperity, safety and welfare of the people of the City. Since its inception, the Commission has landmarked 29 local properties, five national registry properties, the 2004 West Hurlbut Local Historic District, the 2012 North State Street National Historic District and the 2012 South State Street National Historic District.

For More Information Visit:

www.ci.belvidere.il.us/departments/community-development/historic-preservation

Or find us on Facebook: Belvidere Historic Preservation Commission

Lustron Houses

Have you ever wondered the history of the blue steel house on N. State Street? Well, that is a Lustron House and Belvidere has four of them. One even have the extremely rare Lustron garage too!



Constructed entirely of steel, the modest ranches were entrepreneur Carl Strandlunds answer to the severe housing shortage that plagued the country at the end of World War II. But Strandlund's Lustron Company produced just 2,500 of these homes of the future, before declaring bankruptcy in 1950. A half century later, speculation about the events leading to the demise of the company remains. WGN will be airing a segment on Lustron Houses on April 2nd at 6:30pm. There will also be an in-depth article in the Boone County Journal this spring. Stay tuned!

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Historic US Route 20 Association

The Historic US Route 20 Association released a map of Route 20 that lists several Belvidere locations and businesses to visit while traveling. www.historicus20.com

Book Sales



We are running low on the Images of America book but they can be purchased on numerous websites now!

Thank you to the Boone County Journal for providing the Commission these great post-card books for sale!

All books are \$20 each and proceeds fund the Historic Property Maintenance Program.

Downtown Façade Improvement Grant

The Downtown Façade Improvement Grant is funded by the City of Belvidere's video gaming revenue. Due to material shortages, many of the awarded projects were not completed in 2021.

New Belvidere Historic Preservation Commission Members!

Filitsa Platopoulos, Kris Bryan, David Kummerow and Lisa Kummerow's terms have ended on the Commission. They brought a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm to the Commission.

Although they are irreplaceable, we are excited to welcome David Larson, editor of the Boone County Journal; Claudia Colla, landmarked residence homeowner and Dawn Brooks, community activist to the Commission!



There are still two vacant seats on the Commission. If you are interested in becoming a commissioner, please contact Gina DelRose at 815-547-7177 or gdelrose@ci.belvidere.il.us