The Hiawatha History Commission met at the Hiawatha City Hall in Conference Room D with the Edith Wheeler as Chair calling the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M. Members present: Dick Larson, Bev Daws, and Don Gabel. Pat Semelroth arrived at 1:40 p.m. and Roberta Hamdorf arrived at 2:07 p.m. Member absent: Jerry Seifried. Guests: Barb Waterhouse.

Dick Larson moved the approval of the agenda, second by Don Gabel. Motion carried. Bev Daws moved the approval of the August 12, 2013 meeting minutes, second by Don Gabel.

**Opening Comments**

Edie Wheeler thanked Don Gabel for setting up the interview with Barb Waterhouse.

Edie Wheeler stated Roberta Hamdorf did a great job with all the work she did in correcting the transcripts for Metro Studios.

**Further Work Sessions**

Connie from Metro Studios came to meet with the History Commission and informed them that the history CD’s were almost done.

Edie Wheeler will schedule another work session within the next couple of weeks to go through pictures and articles for the CD’s.

Edie Wheeler stated the History Commission needed to work on gathering pictures of the volunteers over the years at a future work session.

**Update on Interviews**

* Edie Wheeler called the Peckosh girls and they can’t do an interview until January.
* Edie Wheeler informed the commission members that Peg Bader would not be ready to conduct an interview in November because of her injured knee.
* Police Chief Dennis Marks will be interviewed at the October 14, 2013 meeting.

**Future Interviews**

* Brian Fanton of the Hiawatha Coin Shop
* George at Oscars Restaurant
* Betty Achenbach – lives on Marion Court
* Buffalo Cemetery representatives
* Barb Waterhouse gave the following names: Esther and Lavonne Hudson

**Update on Metro Studios**

Kim Downs and Edie Wheeler will get together with Connie from Metro Studios before next week to discuss the funding needed to complete the history book.

The Commission felt the completion of the Center Point Road Corridor/Town Center area was a good place to end Phase I of the history project.

**Other Discussion**

Edie Wheeler informed commission members that Veteran’s Day was on November 11, 2013, and the History Commission would have a work session on that day instead of a regular meeting.

Roberta Hamdorf stated the Ernie Anthony plow belonged to the History Commission and suggested checking with the library to see if they would have a future room to display history artifacts.

Commission members held discussion on the creation of the History Commission. Bev Daws asked Kelly Kornegor to gather the following information for her:

* When the History Commission started?
* Was the History Commission adopted by ordinance or resolution?
* Who were the original members?
* When was the number of committee members increased from five to seven?

Don Gabel will be leaving for the winter on October 8, 2013 and Roberta Hamdorf will be leaving for the winter between December 25, 2013 and January 1, 2014.

The next History Commission meeting will be held on October 14, 2013 at 1:30 p.m.

Don Gabel moved to adjourn at 2:02 P.M., second by Bev Daws. Motion carried.

This History Commission interviewed Barb Waterhouse after the business meeting. Highlights of the interview are as follows:

* Barb was born in Independence in 1935.
* Barb Waterhouse lived in Marion until the 6th grade and attended Roosevelt High School.
* Arlo Waterhouse came from a farm in Central City.
* Barb Waterhouse’s first husband was Arlo and they married in 1954 after Arlo left the Air Force.
* Barb and Arlo had a dairy farm where they milked cows and they brought the farm to Cedar Rapids.
* Barb owned a business called Queensway (QW Fashions) in Illinois. Barb’s business was named after people bringing merchandise to the queen. It was a fun business and everything Barb earned from her fashion went into the cost of the business and the rest went to her husband.
* Arlo started work in the water business in the early 70’s working out of the garage, taking softeners from the bank.
* Barb and Arlo Waterhouse built their business themselves.
* In 1976 Barb and Arlo Waterhouse brought their water conditioning business, Waterhouse Water Conditioning to Hiawatha and located on Center Point Road. Their first neighbors were a filling station and a bait shop and now the bank is their neighbor.
* There was a need for the water conditioning business at the time and there were other people selling it. Country people were washing with rusty water.
* Waterhouse bought a water softener from the Kinetico Company and it was the best piece of equipment because it fixed the problems with rust and sediment.
* Arlo was a very talented man and got into the business of assembling calculators.
* Barb and Arlo had two sons, Craig and Dean.
* Arlo was the first president for the Lions Club and at the time they held their meetings at the Long Branch.
* Arlo died in 1982 from a brain tumor.
* Barb’s son Dean runs the Waterhouse Water Conditioning business today.
* Waterhouse supplies water systems/jugs to a lot of hotels and doctor’s offices.
* Waterhouse Water Conditioning employs four people and they have certain territories reaching south to Iowa City and then east in close proximity of Marshalltown.
* Barb has lived in her house on Blairs Ferry Road in Cedar Rapids for 55 years and when she first moved there it was a rural route with crushed lime rock roads and potholes two to three feet deep.
* Blairs Ferry Road was named after a family named Blair that owned a ferry.
* The Waterhouse farm located on Ushers Ferry had a fire. It was the biggest barn in Linn County.
* Barb got re-married in 1984 to Don Miller who was born in Hedrick, Iowa.
* Barb changed her name to Barb Waterhouse-Miller after marrying her second husband. She kept the Waterhouse name because of the business.
* Don was a Chiropractor whose business was in Hiawatha.
* Don had his first patient in 1989 and people would come to their house to be seen at first.
* When Barb and Don purchased the chiropractic office there was nothing on the lot. The previous buyers decided not to go through with their plans so they sold it to them. There used to be a barber shop on the lot.
* Don had a honey business where he sold honey at the chiropractic office.
* In 1991, Craig was 36 years old when he was killed while travelling on a bike and a pick up struck him. He had a six year old little boy at the time.
* Don Miller died in January 2013.
* Barb belongs to two car clubs that Arlo started with, the Mark Club which is a Model A restorer club and the American Antique Automobile Club of America. The car clubs have meetings at the Hiawatha City Hall.
* Barb feels that Hiawatha has grown and it is a lovely place to live. Barb wants to stay in the area because she likes the small town feel with all the amenities.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Edith Wheeler, Chair