

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2019**

Chairperson Harless called the regular meeting of the Historic District Commission to order at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jack Dempsey
Dennis Cebulski
Kevin Gurtowsky
Wendy Harless
Sybil Hunter
Jim Salamay
Carol Souchock

MEMBERS EXCUSED: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Laura Haw, AICP, NCI, Planning Consultant
Sue Brams, Exec. Asst. to Supervisor
Alice Geletzke, Recording Secretary
0 Members of the Public

Sue Brams was introduced, and she will be doing work for the Commission.

2. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2019 AGENDA

Moved by C. Souchock and seconded by J. Salamay to approve the agenda for the meeting of September 26, 2019. Ayes all.

3. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of August 26, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Moved by J. Salamay and seconded by K. Gurtowsky to approve the minutes of the initial meeting of August 26, 2019. Ayes all.

4. BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS

C. Souchock distributed information regarding a National Register of Historic Places Workshop to be held at Eastern Michigan University on October 12 from 9:30-4:30 p.m.

C. Souchock also mentioned the upcoming movie at the Penn Theater.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. New Meeting Dates – *Wendy Harless*

New meeting dates for December and March. We are now meeting on December 5, 2019 and March 26, 2020 at the Township Hall. We will also meet on June 11, 2020.

Later in the meeting it was decided to hold a special meeting either on October 17 or October 23, 2019, place to be determined by availability.

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- b. Demolition of the Silos at 5 Mile on August 30 – *Wendy Harless*

Can we add a requirement to demolition permits, for buildings that are 50 years old or older, that a HD Commissioner has the right to ask for a review of the structure for architectural or historical significance prior to a demolition permit being granted?

Commissioners discussed investigating further the possibilities available for incorporating historic district review into the process for obtaining demolition permits for older buildings.

- c. Tivadar Balogh house to be put on the market – *Wendy Harless*

J. Salamay spoke about his visit to the Mid-Century Modern house which is located on two acres. The house is on the National Register, and is now up for sale. The Commission discussed the possibility of speaking to the family about becoming a historic district, as soon as the forms and procedures are in place.

- d. Larry Oldford House – Consideration of Historic District Designation – *Wendy Harless*

Chairperson Harless noted that Mr. Oldford is interested in possibly having his house on Joy Road become a historic district. She has forwarded the ordinance to him and expressed interest in having members visit the house.

- e. Fee Schedule and Forms – *Jack Dempsey and Laura Haw*

J. Dempsey described the proposed form, designed to encourage applications by its brevity,

The Commission discussed the process to follow once the application is received. Chairperson Harless is to prepare a flow chart of the application and how it would go through the various procedures such as through the Planning Department, to the Chairperson, to the Historic District Commission, through any special committees, through a public hearing, etc., and to the Board of Trustees.

It was decided to pursue a location for a special meeting to be held October 17 or October 23 for further discussion.

Moved by J. Salamay and supported by S. Hunter to adopt the form presented with the addition of the definition that a single structure may be considered a historic district and the addition of an e-mail address. Ayes all.

Ms. Haw presented information regarding the fees charged by other communities in the state and Commissioners discussed possible fees for various parts of the process to be determined later.

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It was moved by J. Salamay and supported by D. Cebulski that there be no charge for filing the original application. Ayes all.

- f. What does the Township currently have on the National and State Register – *Wendy Harless*
 - I Taking photos of historical structures that we do have
 - ii. Create an inventory
 - iii. Prioritize which structures are the most significant and what shape are they in

Currently listed on the National and State Register are:

Carlton D. Wall Home 1941
12305 Beck Road
Listed in 1994 on National Register

John Tibbitts Farmstead c. 1857
46225 N. Territorial Road
Listed in 1986 on State Register

Tivadar Balogh House, 1965
49800 Joy Road
Added to National Register in 9/30/2013

Reference was also made to the possibility of Shearer Cemetery.

It was recommended that photos be taken of existing historical structures and an inventory be created, with prioritization of significance and an indication of condition.

- g. Web Site Updates – *Wendy Harless*
Language of goals, objects, mission statements

Ms. Haw reviewed what is presently on the Township website and Commissioners will consider what might be added, such as photos and further information.

- h. Review of language for Township Historical Plaque – *Jack Dempsey*

Commissioner discussed the language as presented.

- i. Fund-raising Update – *Wendy Harless*

Chairperson Harless indicated the Commission has the option to use the Plymouth Preservation Network's license to raise funds. C. Souchock cautioned that there may be restrictions because the Commission is a governmental entity. Members made note of some existing organizations that might have funds available such as Compari's "Dine and Donate", Men's Book Club, Wilcox Foundation, and the Margaret Dunning Foundation. Also, C. Souchock mentioned that the Michigan Council for Cultural Affairs

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awards millions per year for arts and cultural projects and the historical community is underserved because of a lack of applicants.

- j. Metal Plaques for Historical Sites – Vendor Update – *Wendy Harless*

Chairperson Harless offered the name of Foresight Group Supersigns as potential vendor for metal plaques and Commissioners were invited to suggest other possibilities.

- k. Language for Master Plan Update – *Wendy Harless*

- i. Historic preservation language

Commissioners plan to do further research on suggestions for Master Plan language. Ms. Haw noted the Master Plan is due for update next year. J. Dempsey offered to provide language from the historical plaque.

- l. Plymouth Community Arts Council/Plymouth Men’s Book Club Coloring Book Project Update – *Wendy Harless*

Chairperson Harless presented a copy of the coloring book which features scenes all from the City of Plymouth, at the request of the Men’s Book Club president, Fred Hill. Lisa Howard of the Plymouth Arts Council suggested talking to Fred Hill if the Commission is interested in something similar, perhaps for third graders.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- a. None

7. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by D. Cebulski and seconded by J. Dempsey to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. Ayes all.

Wendy Harless, Chairperson
Plymouth Township Historic District Commission

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