

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2019**

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dennis Cebulski  
Kevin Gurtowsky  
Wendy Harless  
Sybil Hunter  
Jim Salamay.  
Carol Souchock (in at 7:17 p.m.)

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Jack Dempsey

**ALSO PRESENT:** Natalie Bond, Assistant Planner  
Alice Geletzke, Recording Secretary  
2 Members of the Public

**2) APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 5, 2019 AGENDA**

Moved by D. Cebulski and seconded by J. Salamay to approve the agenda for the regular meeting of December 5, 2019. Ayes all.

**3) ENACTMENT OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

a) Approval of the October 23, 2019 meeting minutes

Moved by J. Salamay and seconded by D. Cebulski to approve the minutes of the meeting of October 23, 2019. Ayes all.

**4) COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS**

Chairperson Harless indicated that the Wayne County Commission has approved the sale of two additional mills, the Wilcox Mill in the City of Plymouth and the Newburgh Mill in Livonia.

**5) PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE**

**6) NEW BUSINESS**

a) **Shearer Cemetery** – Wendy Harless

**1. Darrin Sylvester, Plymouth Historian, Plymouth Canton Teacher  
And expert on Shearer Cemetery is our guest.**

Mr. Sylvester addressed the group regarding having over 2000 students involved in caring for the cemetery since 2005. He noted there were graves dating back to 1832. He spoke of them clearing the overgrowth, making paths, and attempting to recover stones and markers. He turned

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over information and materials he has gathered to the Commission. He also mentioned an area where four individuals are buried which might be owned by Wayne County because of its proximity to the road right-of-way.

*(C. Souchock arrived at 7:17 p.m.)*

Moved by J. Salamay and supported by C. Souchock to accept the materials regarding Shearer Cemetery. Ayes all.

**2. Next Steps**

It was decided to discuss further at the March meeting the selection of three volunteers for a follow-up committee.

C. Souchock offered the library staff to help with research, and Chairperson Harless suggested attempting to find another teacher at the high school who might continue student involvement.

**b) Discussion of HDC Benefits – Laura Haw**

Natalie Bond, Assistant Planner, discussed with commissioners many advantages of creating Historic Districts, including those listed in the memo dated November 20:

Preserve and highlight the historical landmarks with the Plymouth community  
Drive economic growth through increased tourism and interest  
Educate the community about local history.

**c) How to Write a Historic District Study Committee Report – Laura Haw**

Commissioners discussed the draft submitted on how to write such a report.

**d) Historic Plaque Program Discussion – Laura Haw**

**a) Plymouth Tourism Brochure and Mapping Exercise – Jack Dempsey and Laura Haw**

1. Discussion of potential sites to include.

A list was submitted by J. Dempsey for possibilities for plaques for public, private and natural sites. Some of the suggestions listed were Phoenix Mill, Shearer Cemetery, Meade Mill, and the former DEHOCO site.

**b) Plymouth Township Historical Marker**

1. The State has approved with changes

Two misspellings were discovered after review of the test.

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Moved by C. Souchock and supported by J. Salamay to approve the Plymouth Township historical marker from the Michigan Historical Commission with the following two spelling corrections for side two, Line 17: “material” instead of materiel and “World” instead of Word. Ayes all.

**c) HDC Flow Chart Review – *Laura Haw***

Commissioners reviewed the flow chart, with suggestions for increased readability.

**d) Photo Inventory of Resources Update – *General Discussion,  
no enclosed materials***

Chairperson Harless and J. Salamay discussed updating the photo inventory, with winter often being an opportune time for the photography because of the lack of leaves.

A repository for commission information was discussed and Ms. Bond suggested looking into a file on the Township shared drive for the commission.

**8) COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS**

K. Gurtowsky mentioned the upcoming vote on the Historic Tax Credit Growth and Opportunity Act.

**9) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Sharland discussed with the commission historical matters in the community and they were presented with the ordinance regarding the creation of a historic district, perhaps for their farm.

**10) ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by K. Gurtowsky and seconded by S. Hunter to adjourn the meeting at 9 p.m. Ayes all.

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Wendy Harless, Chairperson  
Historic District Commission  
Plymouth Township, Michigan