

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MINUTES--REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 4, 2020**

Chairperson Harless called the regular meeting of the Historic District Commission to order at 7 p.m. via Zoom video and conference call, in compliance with Governor Witmer's Executive Order 2020-48 and similar orders regarding the Covid-19 pandemic.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Colleen Azimi
Dennis Cebulski
Jack Dempsey
Kevin Gurtowsky
Wendy Harless
Sybil Hunter joined at 7:10 p.m.
Carol Souchock

MEMBERS EXCUSED: None

ALSO PRESENT: Laura Haw, AICP, NCI, Planning Consultant
Alice Geletzke, Recording Secretary

2) APPROVAL OF THE MAY 4, 2020 AGENDA

Moved by C. Souchock and seconded by K. Gurtowsky to approve the agenda for the regular meeting of May 4, 2020. Ayes all on a roll call vote.

3) ENACTMENT OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

a) Approval of the December 5, 2019 meeting minutes

This item was postponed to a future meeting.

4) BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – There were none.

5) NEW BUSINESS

a) Swearing in of Colleen Azimi

Mutual introductions were made between Ms. Azimi, a new member, and other members of the Commission.

b) Setting meeting schedule for 2020 – *June 11, 2020 is the only meeting scheduled for 2020*

Commissioners discussed the following possibilities for the remainder of 2020:

August 13 or 20 October 8 or 15 December 4 or 10

The dates will be checked with the Clerk's office to determine facility availability.

c) Dedication ceremony for the State historical marker – Jack & Wendy

Items discussed were the invitation list, speakers to invite, the possibility of using chairs and a tent, ordering light refreshments, and the eventual date considering the current circumstances. It was noted that a cover can be borrowed from the City of Plymouth for the unveiling.

d) Visit to Northville HDC recap – Wendy

Chairperson Harless and Laura Haw reviewed their experiences visiting with Northville's Historic District Commission. There are similarities in what they are dealing with and they can be a good resource for advice.

e) Joe Oldenburg has offered to speak in Plymouth about the history of DeHoCo

1. He can speak at the Plymouth District Library
 2. Do we want this to be an HDC project or have library do it?
- Vote of Commissioners***

Commissioners discussed whether this might be an HDC project, possibly holding it at the library which has the space, or on-line. It was agreed there would be interest and it would be good publicity for the HDC to host the event. Mr. Oldenburg is to be contacted for his input. The item was delayed at the present time for further research.

f) MHPN has asked for the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees to pass a resolution in support of Senate Bill 0054 – Vote of Commissioners

Moved by C. Souchock and supported by S. Hunter to recommend to the Board of Trustees passage of the resolution, as presented, supporting reinstatement of State Historic Tax Credits: Senate Bill 54/House Bill 4100. Ayes all on a roll call vote.

It was agreed that Chairperson Harless would present this item to the Board of Trustees.

g) Goals for 2020

1. Open discussion
2. Vote of Commissioners

Commissioners discussed possible goals for 2020 such as:

1. Dedication ceremony for the State historical marker.
2. Work toward Shearer Cemetery becoming an historic district.
3. Educating the community.
 - a. "Did you know?" type facts put on-line or in the newsletter.
4. Exposure of HDC.

The mission statement is to be revisited to see how the goals tie into it.

In conjunction with No. 2, a study committee of J. Dempsey, S. Hunter, and C. Azimi was selected.

Assigned homework for the June meeting was for everybody to come up with one fact that can be shared.

6) OLD BUSINESS

a) Shearer Cemetery – Wendy

- 1. Darrin Sylvester will schedule a May clean-up date for the cemetery**
- 2. Darrin will send Wendy a date once he has one set and Wendy will share with other Commissioners.**
- 3. Research for making Shearer Cemetery an historic district. What do we need? Compile a list.**

Discussion was held on how some clean-up might be done safely under current guidelines, including trash disposal.

Ms. Haw noted that information from Darrin Sylvester is very detailed, and it should be included that the students are a big part of the history of the cemetery.

b) Historic Plaques – Jack

1) Discussion of potential look of plaques

<https://www.pinterest.com/rubydynasty1/historic-building-plaques-signage>

Commissioners agreed to name their favorite plaques at the June meeting, after perusing them on the above pinterest website.

c) The Township has granted us space on their server – Laura Haw

- 1. Laura and Natalie have been scanning Darrin Silvester's Shearer Cemetery research and documents.**

Ms. Haw noted there now can be a permanent record of historic information on the Township's server.

d) Historic Resources Survey – Wendy

- 1. Ken Garner to take photos along 5 Mile Road**
- 2. Wendy to take photos of structures in our historic tourism brochure**
- 3. Can anyone take over Jim's assignment? Taking up-to-date photos of all of the structures from Jim's blog plymouthmidiscoveries.com. I believe there are 34 of them from his website that are in the Township.**

Commissioners discussed the above items with D. Cebulski to contact Ken Garner regarding his progress taking photos along 5 Mile; W. Harless to continue taking photos of structures for the tourism brochure; and the addresses from the blog to be divided among Commission members for taking current photos.

e) **Tourism brochure**

1. **Review updated list**

W. Harless asked that Commissioners each choose the five favorite places they feel should be included in the brochure at the June meeting.

7) ADJOURNMENT

Moved by K. Gurtowsky and seconded by D. Cebulski to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m. Ayes all on a roll call vote.

Wendy Harless, Chairperson
Historic District Commission
Plymouth Township, Michigan