

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
MINUTES--REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, JUNE 11, 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  
Carol Souchock

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** None

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

**2) APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 11, 2020 AGENDA**

Moved by J. Dempsey and seconded by C. Azmi to approve the agenda for the regular meeting of June 11, 2020. Ayes all.

**3) ENACTMENT OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

**a) Approval of the December 5, 2019 meeting minutes**

Moved by J. Dempsey and supported by C. Azmi to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 5, 2020. Ayes all.

**Approval of the May 4, 2020 meeting minutes**

Moved by D. Cebulski and supported by C. Souchock to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 4, 2020. Ayes all.

**4) BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

W. Harless had comments regarding the changes to House Bill 0054. She also noted that the work on Phoenix Mill is continuing and is only slightly behind because of the COVID crisis.

The Larry Oldford house was also discussed and the difficulty to obtain historic district status because of many changes made to the structure. Possibilities for inclusion in other districts was considered, possibly thematic such as stagecoach stops, though verification would be necessary.

**5) NEW BUSINESS**

**a) Meetings for 2020 are as follows:**

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1. August 20<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m.
2. October 12<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m.
3. December 4<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m.

b) **Do we need a logo for the HDC?**

It was determined to check with Supervisor Heise as to what Township approval might be involved and if there should be a tie-in to the Township logo. The item is to be placed on the August 20 agenda.

6) **OLD BUSINESS**

a) **Shearer Cemetery – Wendy**

1. **Clean-up? What do we want to do?**
- 2 **List of things we need:**
  - i. **Plymouth Township Introduction – Jack Dempsey**
  - ii. **List and background of each committee member-everyone**
  - iii. **Description of the District – Colleen Azimi**
  - iv. **Description of the resources**
  - v. **Contributing and non-contributing resources**
  - vi. **Photographic inventory – Colleen Azimi**
  - vii. **Boundary justification – we have this from Laura Haw**
  - viii. **Historical background of Plymouth – Jack Dempsey**
  - ix. **Historical background of Shearer Cemetery**
  - x. **Significance of the District**
  - xi. **Recommendation – Colleen Azimi**
  - xii. **Bibliography – All**

Discussion was held on whether to do some clean-up this fall or skip this year. High school students were unable to be contacted this year by Darrin Sylvester because of school closings. It was suggested that he be contacted for pointers and a guide to the whereabouts of gravestones.

It was mentioned that the work of the students should be included in the description of resources because they are a big part of the history of the cemetery.

(S. Hunter left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.)

b) **Historic Plaques – Jack Dempsey**

- 1) **Discussion of potential look of plaques – everyone present their ideas**

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

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It was noted there are hundreds of different styles, and commissioners discussed giving recipients options for attaching it to their building or placing it on a post on the property. It was suggested that the logo, @year, and a number corresponding to an available description be placed on the plaque. Materials are to be considered and priced, including bronze and aluminum. Some fund-raising suggestions were “Go Fund Me” or establishment of a “Friends Of” group, as well as asking help from existing foundations.

**c) Dedication ceremony for the State historical marker update – *Jack Dempsey and Wendy Harless***

It was mentioned that Supervisor Heise has the location in mind and J. Dempsey indicated that the plaque manufacturer is backed up in filling orders. However, the guest list can be determined and some of the suggestions made were for including state officials and service organizations, including the Chamber of Commerce.

**d) Resolution in support of Senate Bill 0054 update – *Laura Haw***

It was brought up earlier that there will be changes to the bill.

**e) 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. Staff at Township has been able to copy all of PlymouthMichiganiscoveries.com text – *Wendy Harless needs to put together a spread sheet of addresses and send out to the group.***

Among the items discussed were whether to take videos or photographs, quality standards for the photos, and attempting a shot of the façade as well as a ¾ view and view of any interesting details,

**f) Tourism brochure**

- 1. Updated list was mailed out-everyone present their top 5 choices and support them.**
  - 1. Should we start drafting a letter to building owners asking permission to include them and, if possible, a photo?**

Mentioned for inclusion were: Phoenix Mill  
Historical Marker  
Burroughs Building  
Tibbits House and Barn  
Shearer Cemetery  
Township Park (Rockwell Statues)

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**g) Plymouth Township History factoids for the Township  
Newsletter-update from Wendy Harless**

- 1. Sybil wrote a post for the latest newsletter and Wendy submitted another one for the next newsletter.**
- 2. Everyone present your topic for the year.**

DEHOCO history was mentioned as well as Phoenix Mill and its employment of women at equal pay.

**h) Joe Oldenburg talk update-Wendy Harless**

Ms. Harless noted that Mr. Oldenburg was agreeable to making an on-line presentation regarding the history of DEHOCO, and with giving HDC a copy of the information. Could be with library as co-host.

**7) Commissioners Comments**

Status of Courthouse Grill demolition and obtainment of artifacts was discussed, with possibilities on where the artifacts might go if obtained. Ideas for placement can be forwarded to J. Dempsey. C. Souchock mentioned that small items such as menus might be displayed at the library for a brief period.

**8) Public Comments – There were none.**

**7) ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by C. Souchock and seconded by K. Gurtowsky to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Ayes all on a roll call vote.

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Wendy Harless, Chairperson  
Historic District Commission  
Plymouth Township, Michigan