

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MINUTES--REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 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

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Carol Souchock

ALSO PRESENT: Natalie Bond, Assistant Planner
Alice Geletzke, Recording Secretary

2) APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 20, 2020 AGENDA

Moved by C. Azimi and supported by D. Cebulski to approve the agenda for the regular meeting of August 20, 2020. Ayes all.

3) ENACTMENT OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Approval of the June 11, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Moved by D. Cebulski and supported by C. Azimi to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 11, 2020. Ayes all.

4) BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – There were none.

5) NEW BUSINESS

- a) HDC First Year Accomplishments

W. Harless reviewed the accomplishments of the first year which included formulating a procedure for residents to nominate their structures as an Historic District, researching Shearer Cemetery to be the Township's first historic district, creating a visual record of historic structures, creating a tourism brochure and an historic plaques program, publishing an historic fact in the newsletter and working on a dedication ceremony for the historical marker.

- b) HDC Wish List

- 1. Budget for using the archives at the Plymouth Historical Society (charge every time get in and charge to use archives)

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2. Budget to use the Wayne County Registrar of Deeds (Darrin Sylvester says it is \$50 for them to look up just one deed)?
3. Trail Cam for Shearer Cemetery
4. No dumping signs at Shearer
5. Historic Plaque for one home per year
6. Money to print Tourism brochure \$500
7. Marker at Township Park \$2,661
8. Shearer Cemetery Marker \$2,661
9. Training from MHPN \$600 will Northville Township split the cost with us?

J. Dempsey suggested that Items 3, 4 and 6 might be appropriate requests to the Township for funds, with the other items more appropriate for donations or grants. It was suggested to contact the Margaret Dunning and the Wilcox Foundations.

6) OLD BUSINESS

a) Shearer Cemetery – *Wendy*

1. Clean up in progress! It is looking great!

W. Harless noted that Darrin Sylvester's former student who is in the landscape business and doing public service work, cleaned out a portion of the cemetery. He may be able to borrow equipment and labor to remove a dead tree.

2. What we have discovered about Shearer.

W. Harless had information regarding the removal of Shearer's body in the 20's, though he had been buried there for 40 years, and questions about whether a Civil War veteran, David Matthews, is buried there. Research will continue as to who remains buried there, and how to present a case to make it an Historic District. Also to be investigated are rumors of a mausoleum having been there many years ago.

b) Historic Plaques/Markers – *Jack Dempsey*

1. We have a quote from Spectrum in Dearborn to produce an historical marker like the one at Daisy Square for \$2,661

S. Hunter agreed to check with "Eats and Sweets" regarding the origin of their attractive marker.

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

1. We have the marker, to be installed in September
2. Let's go over the invite list and possible dates. – *Attachment*

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HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MINUTES--REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2020



The invitation list was reviewed and addition of HOA presidents was suggested. J. Dempsey said he will be talking to Brian Egan of the Michigan Historical Commission about an appearance. Hopefully, a date will be selected soon.

d) Historic Resources Survey – *Wendy Harless*

1. The spread sheet on Google docs
2. Everyone give their updates
3. Jack's new idea for organizing the list.
4. We are not limiting the survey to the Plymouth Michigan Discoveries sites and the tourism brochure sites. If you know of a structure in the township that you believe to be older than 50 years, let's get an address and photos and include it in the survey.

All-member access and editing of the Google spreadsheet was discussed.

e) Tourism brochure

1. Go over draft of letter to property owners whose buildings we would like to include in the tourism brochure-get commissioner's input. - *Attachment*
2. Graye's Greenhouse says they would love to be included and have historic photos that we can use!

The letter drafted by W. Harless to property owners was discussed, and it was suggested that another be drafted for business owners.

D. Cebulski suggested adding at the beginning of the letters the fact that the Historic District Commission was established by the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees.

N. Bond will work with S. Brams and K. Heise about using Plymouth Township e-mail and whether Township letterhead can be used.

In addition to Graye's Greenhouse enthusiasm, S. Hunter said that Ken Malik was excited about having his 1831 home included, which was part of the underground railroad.

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

1. There is an online monthly newsletter, in addition to the printed and mailed quarterly newsletter
2. Everyone present your new history facts for the newsletter

Discussed were possible facts for the newsletters. A suggestion was made for repeating a fact from one of the monthly e-newsletters in the mailed quarterly letter.

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HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MINUTES--REGULAR MEETING
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g) Joe Oldenburg talk update-*Wendy Harless*

His on-line talk on the former DEHOCO (Detroit House of Correction) is to be done via the library, possibly in October.

h) HDC logo ideas-look at mockups-*Wendy Harless*

W. Harless presented several possible logos, with design work to continue on favorites. J. Dempsey commended Ms. Harless on her designs.

7) Commissioners Comments

N. Bond asked members about working on the history section of the Master Plan. She will send examples from other communities.

8) Public Comments – There were none.

9) Adjournment

Moved by S. Hunter and supported by D. Cebulski to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m. Ayes all.

Wendy Harless, Chair
Historic District Commission
Plymouth Township, Michigan