



Meeting of the Plymouth Township Historic District Commission

Monday, June 11, 2020 - 7 p.m.

Next Meeting date August 20 , 2020

This meeting will be held via Zoom video and conference call in compliance with Governor Whitmer's Executive Order 2020-48 and similar orders regarding the Covid-19 pandemic.

Topic: Plymouth Twp. Historic District Commission 6/11/20 @ 7 pm

Time: Jun 11, 2020

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89525608235>

Meeting ID: 895 2560 8235

Password: 815235

or call one of these numbers:

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

AGENDA

1) CALL TO ORDER

a) Roll Call

2) APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 11, 2020 CONSENT AGENDA

3) ENACTMENT OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

a) Approval of the December 5, 2019 Meeting Minutes
Approval of the May 4 2020 Meeting Minutes

4) BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

5) NEW BUSINESS

a) Meetings for 2020 are as follows:

1. August 20th, 7pm



2. October 12th, 7pm
3. December 4th, 7pm

b) Do we need a logo for the HDC?

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 & Background of each committee member-everyone writing their own
- 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*

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/>

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

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

e) Historic Resources Survey – *Wendy Harless (I have not had time to work on this)*

1. Ken Garner to take photos along 5 Mile Rd. -*Dennis Cebulski*
2. Wendy to take photos of structures in our historic tourism brochure



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

f) Tourism brochure

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

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

h) Joe Oldenburg talk update-*Wendy Harless*

7) Commissioners Comments

8) Public Comments

9) Adjustment

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2020**

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

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2020**

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 text.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2020**

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.

Wendy Harless, Chairperson
Historic District Commission
Plymouth Township, Michigan

**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 W. 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 Sylvester'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.