



**Meeting of the Plymouth Township Historic District Commission  
Thursday, October 28, 2021 - 7 p.m.**

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Next Meeting date December 16, 2021

**HYBRID MEETING**

<https://mcka.zoom.us/j/84341552422>

Meeting ID: 843 4155 2422

One tap mobile

+16468769923, 84341552422# US (New York) 13017158592, 84341552422# US

Dial by your location

+1 646 876 9923 US (Michigan)

**1) CALL TO ORDER**

a) Roll Call

**2) APPROVAL OF THE October 28, 2021 CONSENT AGENDA**

**3) ENACTMENT OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

a) Approval of the August 12, 2021 Meeting Minutes

b) Approval of the 2022 HDC Meeting Schedule

**4) BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

**5) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**6) NEW BUSINESS**

a) Development at the Elks Property on Ann Arbor Rd.--*Dennis Cebulski*

b) Naming of the development to replace the Courthouse Grille/Hillside Inn—  
*Dennis Cebulski*

c) Historic Marker for Triangle Park—*Jack Dempsey*

d) Review of "Celebrate Fall Colors"—*Wendy Harless, Sybil Hunter*

**6) OLD BUSINESS**

a) Shearer Cemetery – *Wendy Harless*

1. Map is online

2. Poison Ivy update

3. Dead Tree

4. Should we clean the headstones? -- *Group Discussion*



- b) The Pursell House and historical plaque update-*Jack Dempsey and Dennis Cebulski*
- c) Rockwell Sculptures update – *Wendy Harless*
- d) Updates about expenditures
- e) Historic Sites Brochure – *Jack Dempsey*
  - 1. Homeowners who have responded to our letter--*Colleen Azimi*
  - 2. Review of the map and contents—*Wendy Harless*

## 7) ADJOURNMENT



**Meeting of the Plymouth Township Historic District Commission  
Thursday, August 12, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.  
Hybrid Meeting  
Meeting ID 828 0597 6673**

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**PROPOSED MINUTES**

**1) CALL TO ORDER** at 7:09 p.m. by W. Harless, Chair.

a) Roll Call

|          |                |                 |
|----------|----------------|-----------------|
| PRESENT: | Colleen Azimi  | Dennis Cebulski |
|          | Jack Dempsey   | Zach Funk       |
|          | Wendy Harless  | Sybil Hunter    |
|          | Carol Souchock |                 |

ALSO PRESENT Denisa Terrell, Recording Secretary

**2) APPROVAL OF THE August 12, 2021 CONSENT AGENDA**

Moved by C. Souchock and supported by D. Cebulski to approve the agenda for the regular meeting of August 12, 2021. Ayes all.

**3) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JUNE 17, 2021**

a) Approval of June 17, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Moved by S. Hunter and supported by D. Cebulski to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 17, 2021. Ayes all.

**4) BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

There were none.

**5) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mary Ann MacLaren, Chair from the Environmental Commission gave an invitation to the Commission to attend the Celebration of the Colors of Fall. The event will be held at the Township on October 10, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**6) NEW BUSINESS**

Zach Funk was introduced and welcomed as the incoming Historic District Commissioner. He replaced Kevin Gurtowsky.

**7) OLD BUSINESS**

a) **Shearer Cemetery – Wendy Harless**

**1. Clean-Up Continues.**

An update was given on the cleanup efforts at Shearer Cemetery. Schedules were discussed. It was also suggested that there are some headstones that need cleaning.

## **2. Sidewalks are going in along North Territorial.**

It was shared that sidewalks are going in along North Territorial around the cemetery. The road was also widened. The 1930 mausoleum was taken out. Cemetery Section 28 sits on the line of 27.

## **3. Poison Ivy update.**

Poison Ivy continues to be a challenge and suggestions were requested concerning spray or to continue to pull up the existing. Free wood chips are available. Solicitation of volunteers are needed to move the wood chips up hill. The wood chips will keep the weeds down. There was the suggestion to get Boy Scouts.

There was a large fossil found, rugose coral. A quick search of 3D models on the internet drew the conclusion that it is most likely a fossilized Cnidaria.

## **4. We can get a new bench installed.**

A bench will be installed. Lara Haw advised there is a \$5000 budget. J. Dempsey indicated that there maybe a need to be a subcommittee. Additional comments from C. Souchock indicated a metal bench would be better than a wood bench. C. Souchock also indicated the Environmental Commission would be able to present ideas.

## **5. Shearer Cemetery map update.**

A draft map of the cemetery was reviewed. Ellen Elliot indicated John Shearer's son was in a glass top coffin in the mausoleum which could be included on the map.

### **b) The Pursell House and historical plaque update-Jack Dempsey and Dennis Cebulski**

D. Cebulski communicated that plaques are available through C Way Studies in Ohio. The revised plaque of 26 X 36 will cost approximately \$2240. The developer will cover the cost. The marker will be positioned at the far east entrance.

### **c) Rockwell Sculpture Update – Wendy Harless**

There was a discussion on the Rockwell Sculpture signage and what it would look like. Two suggestions included pouring a slab and displaying as a work of art. There is also the consideration of the display being place on a table. Safety was considered with the table option.

### **d) Updates about expenditures**

The Commission reviewed expenditures including expenses related to brochures, expected contributions, usage, as well as funds already approved.

### **e) Update for the homes on Northville Rd. –Wendy Harless**

W. Harless provided details on the homes on Northville Road.

### **f) Historic Sites Brochure -Jack Dempsey**

#### **1. Review of letters to homeowners-Colleen Azimi**

C. Azimi presented the letter to be sent out to homeowners to get permission to place the home in the brochure.

2. Review of graphic design layout.

Wendy presented photos to be placed in the brochure. It was advised more photos are needed. Permission must be obtained to place the photos in the brochure. It was also suggested if the Historic District can't stop the demolition of the Peacock house, photos should be obtained before the demolition.

**7) ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by C. Souchock and supported by D. Cebulski adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m.  
Ayes all.

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Wendy Harless, Chair  
Historic District Commission



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH  
HISTORIC DISTRICT  
COMMISSION

**MEETING DATE:** October 28, 2021

**ITEM:** Regular Meeting Schedule for 2022

**PRESENTER:** Wendy Harless, Chair

**BACKGROUND:**

The Historic District Commission is required adopt a meeting schedule for anticipated meetings every calendar year. Historic District Commission regular meetings are generally scheduled on the third Thursday of each even month.

Commission approval of the meeting schedule is required to facilitate the publication of a Public Notice listing of the approved meeting dates. The proposed schedule for 2022 is attached to this request.

**ACTION REQUESTED:**

Approve the formal scheduling and publication of the Charter Township of Plymouth Historic District Commission meeting schedule for the calendar year 2022.

**PROPOSED MOTION:** I move to authorize the formal scheduling and publication of the Charter Township of Plymouth Historic District Commission meeting schedule for the calendar year 2022.

Moved By \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded By \_\_\_\_\_

**ROLL CALL:**

Azimi \_\_\_\_\_ Cebulski \_\_\_\_\_ Dempsey \_\_\_\_\_ Funk \_\_\_\_\_

Harless \_\_\_\_\_ Hunter \_\_\_\_\_ Souchock \_\_\_\_\_

## HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

### 2022 MEETING SCHEDULE

February 17

April 21

June 16

August 18

October 20

December 15

**All meetings will be held in the Plymouth Township Hall Board Meeting Room and scheduled for 7 pm unless otherwise announced in advance**

***All meetings are subject to cancellation***

## Proposed sign for new triangle park

Overall: follow the same design as the “Boy, That’s a Daisy” sign on Union Street near the old Daisy air rifle site [see pages 3-4 below]

Title on side one: “Plymouth’s Rural Heritage”

Note: no title needed on side two, as per Daisy sign

### Side One

*Images (four)*:

Main image: see #A1

Second image: see #A2

Third image: see #A3

Fourth image: Tibbits barn on N. Territorial, see #A4 for sample

*Texts*:

#### *Text box – township’s rural origin*

The Township of Plymouth was formed in 1827, encompassing 72 square miles of forest, stream, and field. Canton residents formed their own Township in 1834. The village of Plymouth was incorporated in 1867 by act of the Legislature. In 1898, a vote of 40 to 30 at a meeting in Northville favored splitting off into its own Township. Travel difficulties were a key rationale for these changes that resulted in today’s 16-square mile township.

#### *Text box – pioneers*

By late 1825, several settlers had cleared portions of the heavily timbered land, raised cabins, erected barns, and planted crops. During Spring in 1826, residents began to cut roads as more came to the township seeking a homestead. John Tibbits was one of the first settlers, and it was on his property that the first Township meeting convened in 1827.

#### *Text box – before ‘pioneers’*

Indigenous people traversed this area well before Europeans arrived on the Great Lakes. They blazed paths through the abundant woods, some of which – Ridge, Joy, Ann Arbor Trail – are used today for transit. A nearby branch of the Rouge River is named for “Tonquish,” a leader in the Potawatomi tribe who called Southeast Michigan their home. [CAN THIS BE EXPANDED? HAVE AN IMAGE?]

#### *Text box – farms*



Glacial forces created a rich soil in this area that aided agricultural activity. Farming expanded from the early in the 19th century. Cultivation of orchards produced fruit to subsist life. [CAN INFO ON THESE BE FOUND?] The D.D. Allen farm became Township Park nearby. Vestiges of early farms abound, including houses on major roads where families gathered together.

*Text box - 1-room schoolhouses*

Michigan's early constitutions provided for public instruction in schools for each local district at least three months every year. Children of several generations received their education in one-room structures, such as Geer School west of here. In 1914, the State's Department of Public Instruction specified standards for rural school construction. Several existed at Beck and N. Territorial roads.

## Side Two

*Images (need several more):*

Main image: Burr's map of 1839, see #B1

*Texts:*

*Text box – historic intersection*

These \_\_\_ acres of open space are located at a historic road junction along Beck Road – “beck” derives from usage in England to signify a brook or swiftly running stream. Nearby is Tonquish Creek, a tributary of the Rouge River watershed. Ann Arbor Trail is a modern name for what was once a “one horse sulky road.” [OTHERS?]

*Text box – Plymouth Plank Road*

A law to incorporate the Detroit, Plymouth and Ann Arbor turnpike (or timber road company) was enacted on March 22, 1837, “for the purpose of constructing a turnpike or timbered road from the city of Detroit, in the county of Wayne, to the village of Ann Arbor, in the county of Washtenaw.” This was “the first plank road in Michigan, and indeed, in the United States.”

*Text box – mills*

Roads originally were crude but provided better access to mills. A mill used water power from a stream to grind (“mill”) grain to produce flour for baking and cooking or corn for meal. Abraham Markham claimed to have erected the first mill in the Township in 1826. Nearby mills include: Phoenix Mill; Wilcox Mill; Gunsolly; Meads [etc.]