



**Meeting of the Plymouth Township Historic District Commission  
Thursday, December 16, 2021 - 7 p.m.**

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**Next Meeting date February 24, 2021**

**HYBRID MEETING**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://mcka.zoom.us/j/83903641413>**

**Meeting ID: 839 0364 1413**

**One tap mobile**

**+13017158592,83903641413# US**

**Dial by your location**

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**1) CALL TO ORDER**

a) Roll Call

**2) APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 16, 2021 AGENDA**

**3) ENACTMENT OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

a) Approval of the October 28, 2021 Meeting Minutes

**4) BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

**5) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**6) NEW BUSINESS**

**7) OLD BUSINESS**

a) 2022 Meeting schedule

b) Shearer Cemetery – *Wendy Harless*

1. Online Map Updated to show tomb stone of Mary J Sayrs

2. Poison Ivy update

3. Dead Tree update

4. Let's set a clean-up schedule for 2022 Spring, Summer and Fall



#### 5. Other updates

- c) Historic Marker for Triangle Park (draft text attached)—*Jack Dempsey*
- d) Development at the Elks Property on Ann Arbor Rd.—*Dennis Cebulski*
- e) Historic Sites Brochure — *Jack Dempsey*
  - 1. Homeowners who have responded to our letter—*Colleen Azimi*
  - 2. Review of draft text for inside back page (draft attached)—*Wendy Harless*

#### 7) ADJOURNMENT

## Design

Follow the “Boy, That’s a Daisy” sign on Union Street near the old Daisy air rifle site:





## **Title**

On side one, at the very top: “Our Rural Heritage”

Rationale: Plymouth Township’s roots are rural, not urban, in nature. Native peoples contacted the area in the context of their nature-grounded lifestyles. Early European-ancestry peoples came to build farms and homesteads. This heritage is spread around the Township today but in small doses after the suburbanization that came to the area in the post-World War II era. The nearby Township Park was fashioned from a farm. To connect residents to the Township’s roots, and to call attention to the importance of the natural world, this sign would highlight rural themes.

On side two, no title is needed as per the Daisy design shown above.

## Side One

Main image [*township's rural origin*]:



Text:

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. Nineteenth century travel difficulties were a key rationale for bringing local government closer to the people it served.

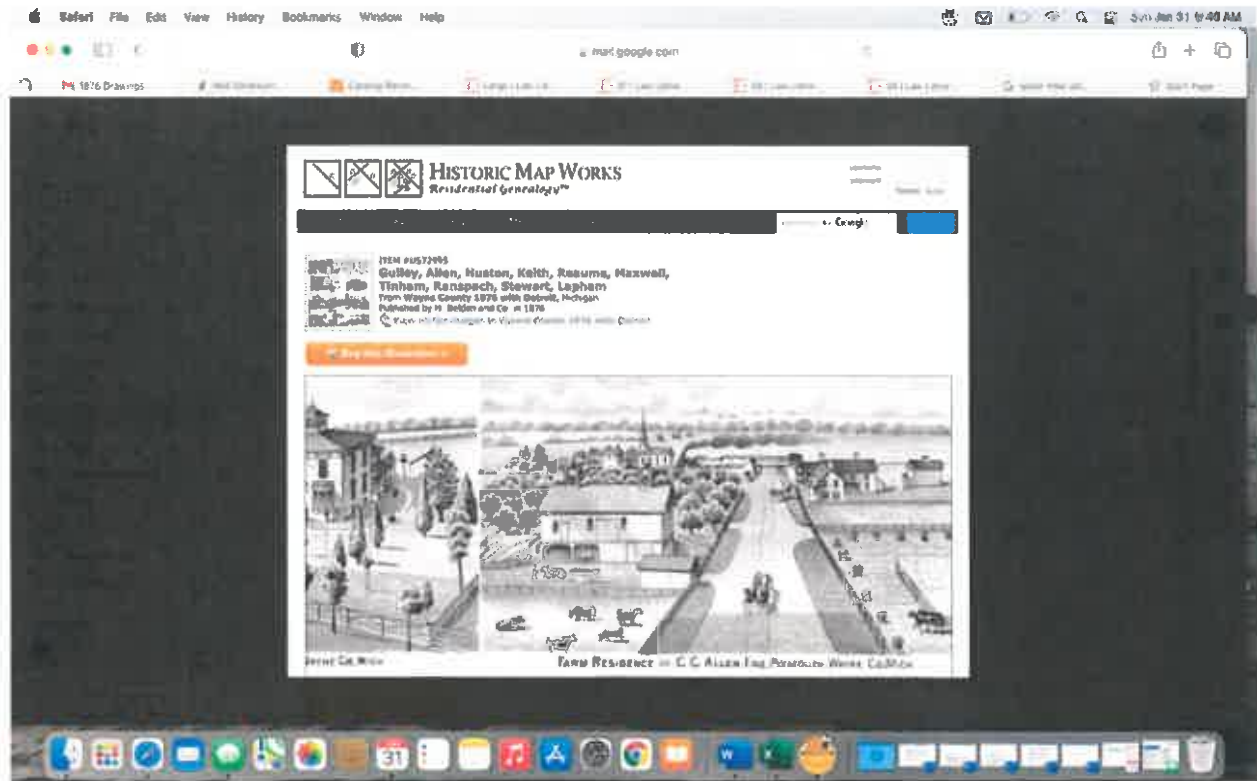
Second image [*pioneers*]:



Text:

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.

Third image [ *before pioneers*]:



Text:

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.



Fourth image [*farms*]: Tibbits barn on N. Territorial (need better picture)



Text:

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. The D.D. Allen farm became Township Park nearby. Vestiges of early farms abound, including houses on major roads where families gathered together.

## Side Two

First image [*1-room schoolhouses*]:

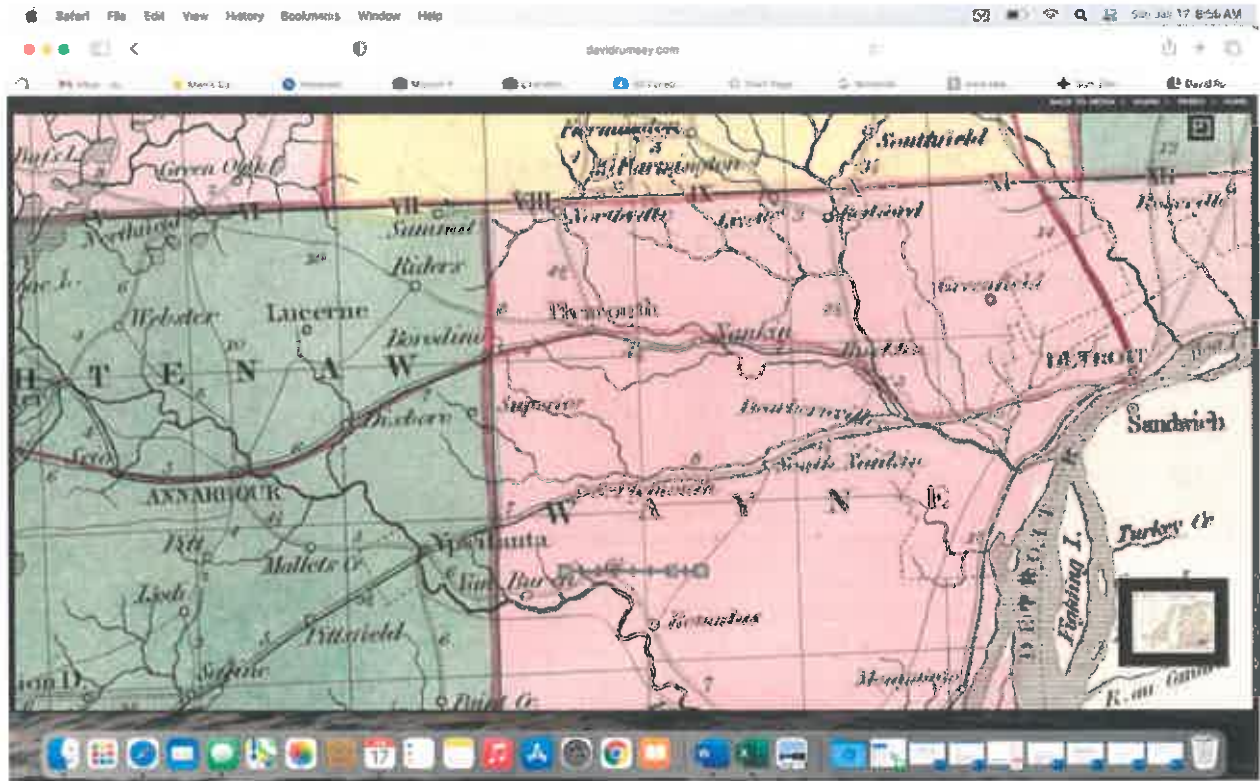


(need one closer than Geer)

Text:

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.

Second image [*Plymouth Plank Road*]:



Text:

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.”

Third image [*mills*] (need better picture):



Text:

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.

Fourth image [*nature*]:



**Text:**

The rolling meadow here is home to many wildflowers, such as clover, violets, daisies, and dandelion. Their blossoms provide butterflies, pollinators, and songbirds with the food required for them to live. A meadow is critical to the health of plants in the surrounding area.

# Plymouth Township Historic District Commission

The Plymouth Township Historic District Commission was created in 2019 by Ordinance No. 1016, Amendment #23. The purpose of this ordinance is to foster the preservation of historic structures and places within Plymouth Township by enabling owners to voluntarily seek the creation of historic districts for their properties under applicable laws of the State of Michigan.

Structures in Plymouth Township that are at least 50 years old or older and that have architectural or historical significance are eligible to be a historic district. A single building or structure can qualify to become a historic district.

Any property owner in Plymouth Township who wishes to nominate their structure(s) as an historic district should fill out a Historic Designation application and submit it to the Plymouth Township Community Development Department at [planning@plymouthtwp.org](mailto:planning@plymouthtwp.org). There is no fee to apply.

As historic preservation is a public purpose, the Commission is charged with the following:

- Safeguard the heritage of Plymouth Township by preserving districts which reflect elements of its history, architecture, archeology, engineering or culture;
- Stabilize and improve property values in each district and the surrounding areas;
- Foster civic beauty;
- Strengthen the local economy; and
- Promote the use of historic districts for the education, pleasure and welfare of the citizens.

Using the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation as a guideline, the Historic District Commissioners are charged with reviewing and approving plans to exterior alterations and additions to resources that have been recognized with historic district status.

It is also the responsibility of the Historic District Commission to educate the community about the historic locations and structure that exist within the Charter Township of Plymouth. The Commissioners will accomplish this task by producing educational literature and recognizing historic locations and structures through the creation of historic markers and signage in the Township.

**Proposed heritage sign for new triangle park  
Ann Arbor Trail at Beck**

Respectfully submitted  
to the  
Historic District Commission  
of the  
Charter Township of Plymouth  
for its meeting on  
December 16, 2021

Commissioner Jack Dempsey