



Meeting of the Plymouth Township Historic District Commission

Thursday, December 14, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

APPROVED MINUTES

Next Meeting date February 22, 2024

1) CALL TO ORDER 7:01 PM

a) Roll Call

Present:

- Ben Eikey
- Wendy Harless, Chair
- Steven Bassett
- Dennis Cebulski

Also present: Laura Simpson, Recording Secretary

Excused: Sybil Hunter
Colleen Azimi
Carol Souchock

2) APPROVAL OF THE December 14, 2023, CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by S. Bassett and supported by D. Cebulski to approve the Consent Agenda of the Historic District Commission for the meeting of December 14, 2023.

All Ayes of those present

Motion Passed

3) ENACTMENT OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

a) Approval of the October 26, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Moved by S. Bassett and supported by B. Eikey to approve October 26, 2023, meeting minutes.

All Ayes of those present

Motion Passed

4) BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

None

5) PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

6) NEW BUSINESS



No new business

7) OLD BUSINESS

a) Set meeting dates for 2024

February 22 *, April 25, June 27, August 22, October 24 *, December ?

The asterisks indicate those meetings will be held in the 2nd floor conference room. And W. Harless noted that she would check with Sue Brams for a date of the 12th or 19th for December 2024.

b) New Google email group – Dennis Cebulski

Mr. Cebulski noted that Bob Janks from IT has created the Email Group, but only internal senders are allowed. This will be researched a bit more to be accessible.

c) Podcast Updates – Ben Eikey

Mr. Eikey noted that The Darrin Silvester episode on Shearer Cemetery and Jack Dempsey's episode are ready on the share drive, and he shared links with the commission. The St. John Resort episode should be ready before Christmas. He indicated that he would share this with Supervisor Heise for his approval before it is released to Spotify or any other service. Some suggestions were made to work with Plymouth Township IT to make it available through the website once it is approved by the Supervisor. It could then be advertised in the Plymouth Township electronic newsletter, which comes out every month, or in the quarterly mailed newsletter. He added that he had a contact with the government relations director for the Michigan Railroad Association and can use him as a resource.

Ms. Harless noted that she received a suggestion to contact Joe Oldenburg regarding the Salem train wreck and another person, who made a video about the train wreck. She added that interviews could begin in January.

Ms. Harless indicated that she would be researching the history of 49000 North Territorial as a historical site. She received a call from Sue Schafer, who said her great grandparents had owned the farm at this address. There may be enough information to do a podcast on this subject, but she would know more after interviewing Sue's parents. Sue also gave her the name of another previous owner, who may provide valuable information.

d) 200th Anniversary—Wendy Harless

Ms. Harless asked the commissioners to bring ideas for a timeline to the next meeting. An event at Township Park, a Board of Trustees Meeting at the Tibbitts Barn, banners with a bicentennial logo, and a calendar of bicentennial events were all discussed for the 2027-year celebration.

It was suggested that the Historic Commission provide lots of historical content on Plymouth



Township to go along with the events, having a working group to accomplish tasks, and perhaps even having a book committee. Identifying businesses and structures, with history in the Township were suggested for a bicentennial booklet. Ms. Harless indicated that she would email the commissioners who were not at the meeting, to bring at least two ideas to the next meeting.

e) Shearer Cemetery—Wendy Harless

The date for clean-up will be April 20, 2024.

Ms. Harless noted that gravestones have shown up or been dumped in the cemetery. Some have been stolen and then returned. If one is ever found, she noted the Historic Commission should be called, who will then contact the police. The Commission will then research where the stone belongs. She wondered if a policy or ordinance could be created regarding the return of gravestones.

Ms. Harless added the State of Michigan will be back in Spring with new ground penetrating radar equipment to continue identifying grave locations and if the ground has been disturbed. A digital map identifying gravesites may be available after the ground penetrating radar is completed so that the Memorial Bench can be placed in a location where there are no graves.

f) Triangle Park Marker/Golfview Park –Wendy Harless

Ms. Harless had Jack Dempsey review the Marker for accuracy but suggested changing side two to “A Township Brimming with Heritage.” She added that she is waiting to hear back from Spectrum Signs for a price quote.

Mr. Eikey heard from his contact, Aurene Martin, President of Consulting Firm for Spirit Rock, representing the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa asking for her research on the area. He hoped to hear back by the end of January.

g) Reprinting of Historic Sites of Plymouth Township Brochures—Wendy Harless

Ms. Harless indicated that she had added a new photo of Phoenix Mill and added Mr. Cebulski’s new information about St. John’s stained glass and mosaic. Mr. Eikey added that the golf course was the original product of the priests. This may be added to the brochure. In 2024, the brochure may contain four additional pages.

h) New Plymouth historic facts for the Township newsletter—Dennis Cebulski

Mr. Cebulski researched some microfilm from Plymouth Mail and found in March of 1924 that a caucus was held for Township Offices. He noted that a second article from 1929 mentioned the first electric road was opened thirty years prior, possibly referring to a “streetcar or interurban rail.” He noted an old obituary was also noteworthy for historic facts.



8) ADJOURNMENT

Moved by D. Cebulski and supported by S. Bassett to adjourn the Historic District Commission at 8:17 PM

All Ayes

Motion Passed

Wendy Harless, Chair

The public is invited and encouraged to attend all meetings of the Historic District Commission of the Charter Township of Plymouth.