



Meeting of the Plymouth Township Historic District Commission
Thursday, June 27, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.

Next Meeting date August 22, 2024 7:00 p.m.

- 1) CALL TO ORDER**
 - a) Roll Call

- 2) APPROVAL OF THE June 27, 2024 CONSENT AGENDA**

- 3) ENACTMENT OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**
 - a) Approval of the April 25, 2024 Meeting Minutes

- 4) BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

- 5) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- 6) NEW BUSINESS**

- 7) OLD BUSINESS**
 - a) Our new Google email group, update on using this – *Dennis Cebulski*
 - b) 200th Anniversary – *Wendy Harless*
 1. Website timeline. How are we doing with finding images/dates. Should we break up the list? See attachment.
 - c) Shearer Cemetery — *Wendy Harless*
 1. We need to set a Fall clean up date.
 2. Draft a policy for returning head stones. Second reading.
 - d) Triangle Park marker — *Wendy Harless*
 1. When do we want to hold a dedication ceremony? Updates on install.
 - e) Salem Train Wreck historic marker
 - f) Update von the American World War II Heritage Cities nomination.
 1. Do we want to start planning a WWII Memorial event for 2025?
 - g) Any new Plymouth historic facts for the Township newsletter?

- 8) ADJOURNMENT**

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



**Plymouth Township Historic District Commission
Proposed Minutes
Thursday, April 25, 2024 – 7:00 PM**

1) CALL TO ORDER AT 7:00 PM

a) Roll Call

PRESENT: Wendy Harless Sybil Hunter
 Steven Bassett Dennis Cebulski
 Ben Eikey Carol Souchock
EXCUSED: Colleen Azimi

ALSO PRESENT Maya Baker, Township Planner
 Laura Simpson, Recording Secretary

2) APPROVAL OF THE April 25, 2024, 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 February 22, 2024.

All Ayes of those Present

Motion Passed.

3) ENACTMENT OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

a) Approval of the February 22, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Moved by S. Bassett and supported by C. Souchock to approve the Consent Agenda of the Historic District Commission for the meeting of February 22, 2024.

All Ayes of those Present

Motion Passed.

4) BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

C. Souchock noted that the Salem Train Wreck Program will be presented by Joe Oldenburg at the Plymouth District Library on May 22, 2024 at 7:00 PM. Registration is required.

B. Eikey noted that Joe Oldenburg has also been interviewed about the Salem Train Wreck for the new HDC (Historic District Commission) Podcast, and he will be interviewing Liz Kerstens and is reaching out to Ionia, which is where many of the victims were from. M. Baker indicated she had a connection with Ionia and would reach out to them.

W. Harless noted that Supervisor Heise is requesting the Commission work on a State Historic marker for the Salem Train Wreck. A few locations will be investigated due to property rights. She added there is no state funding for this, so other funding sources will need to be researched.

5) PUBLIC COMMENTS

W. Harless welcomed one guest, but there were no public comments.



6) NEW BUSINESS

- a) **Apply for American World War II Heritage Cities Designation**
<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/worldwarii/americanheritagecity.htm>

W. Harless and C. Souchock discovered during training a few things needed to proceed with this application process, including support letters showing that we honor WWII Veterans and/or their memories currently. She indicated the restoration or preservation of an important building could also be used to show this support. W. Harless reached out to Greg Donofrio, who restored Phoenix Mill to ask for his assistance with this application request. The application is due May 31, 2024. In the future, it was recommended having an event honoring these Veterans on an important day during the year, perhaps even having it at Phoenix Mill, to bring public awareness to its historic significance during WWII. Permission to use HDC pictures would need to be obtained prior to using them for the application or reprinting purposes if the Designation is awarded to the Township.

C. Souchock noted that one community per state is appointed and Debbie Dingell's Office may be able to write a letter of support if it is requested.

7) OLD BUSINESS

- a) **New Google email group update – *Dennis Cebulski***

D. Cebulski indicated that the group email should be ready to use. He added that he is listed as owner, but would like W. Harless to be the owner, and he would be could be her alternate.

- b) **Podcast updates — *Ben Eikey***

B. Eikey indicated the podcast is available through the Plymouth Township website, a press release has been sent, and it is also published in the electronic newsletter noting that a wider publication of this release allows for more exposure to the new podcast. He added that he continues to work on future episodes and will be finishing the Library episode soon, which should help bring more awareness to the Podcast.

W. Harless added that she interviewed an older former resident of the Township, which be a great future podcast. She indicated that he has quite a collection of BB Guns from the Daisy BB-Gun factory and had a collection of arrowheads and tools that were collected along the Rouge River. She said she will thank the Board of Trustees for approving and promoting the Podcast and for funds for the Triangle Marker at a future Board meeting.

- c) **200th Anniversary – *Wendy Harless***

W. Harless suggested that construction dates of Plymouth Township historic buildings be added to a timeline and asked if everyone could research a few ideas from the Highlight list. Include a dates, photos, and important information.

M. Baker noted that she had seen story maps done on a webpage, detailing different locations on a map with photos and historical information.

C. Souchock made a suggestion of having an actual timeline set up on Township Hall walls and perhaps doing a 360 degree (3-D) mapping of one of the historic buildings.

- d) **Shearer Cemetery — *Wendy Harless***

W. Harless and B. Eikey worked on the cleanup on April 20, 2024, and filled



a dozen yard waste bags with weeds and branches. She discussed establishing guidelines for returning a headstone to a cemetery that may have been found.

e) **Triangle Park marker — Wendy Harless**

W. Harless indicated she is waiting to hear from Specturm on an install date, and once that is established, a dedication can be planned with the Township Supervisor and others speaking. Invitations could go to various groups, guests, boards, and even local Representatives,. She recommended putting together a guest list and emailing ideas to her.

C. Souchock also suggested keeping the marker covered with a green cloth until the “unveiling,” and maybe having a light reception under a tent.

f) **Any new Plymouth historic facts for the Township newsletter?**

W. Harless noted that once the dedication date is set for the Triangle Marker, that should go into the newsletter to invite the community to come, and future newsletters could include some of the research being done by D. Cebulski on Plymouth Township.

C. Souchock suggested promoting the new brochure and highlighting some of the sites in it.

Next meeting June 27, 2024

8) ADJOURNMENT

Moved by B. Eikey and supported by D. Cebulski to adjourn the Historic District Commission at 8:09 PM

All Ayes of thos Present

Motion Passed

Wendy Harless, Chair

Plymouth Township 200th Anniversary Highlight list:

1. Native Americans here for thousands of years
2. People of European descent arrive in the area
3. 1824 first European burial at Shearer
4. 1827 naming of Plymouth in Tibbet's barn (find exact date)
5. Northville Lumber established
6. First postmaster
7. John Shearer goes to Congress/elected
8. Canton splits off
9. Graye's Greenhouse opens as name??
10. Northville splits off
11. Plymouth Plank Road
12. Residents enlisted in Civil War
13. Carding Mill built at Gunsolly
14. Luther Lincoln's mill
15. Inter Urban
16. Alter car factory
17. Evan Products
18. Township Hall moved
19. City of Plymouth splits off
20. Township becomes at Charter Township
21. Governor Swansen elected
22. Carl Pursell elected
23. Burroughs established
24. Phoenix Mill
25. Opening of Hines Drive/First rest area in the country
26. First school opens
27. DeHoCo
28. PCEP opens

Directions for Returning Headstones to Plymouth Township

If you find that you have a headstone of any kind in your possession, please contact Plymouth Township (need a name and contact info here). Please do not leave headstones in any of our cemeteries. Placing a headstone in a location where that person is not interred creates a false impression that this person is buried in that cemetery and in that exact spot where you leave it. We do not want to create a false history for future generations to try to untangle.

If at all possible, please provide us with any information you have about the headstone so that we may be able to return it to its proper location. You will not be held liable for possessing a headstone. We are more interested in returning historic headstones than figuring out how they left the cemetery.

All historic headstones that are returned will become the property of Plymouth Township. Every effort will be made to return the headstone to its proper location.

In the event that the correct location cannot be determined, historic headstones will be placed in a section of Shearer Cemetery that is designated for returned headstones and marked accordingly (this area is TBD).