

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission
Held in the Caucus Room of the Municipal Building
On Wednesday, January 8, 2020**

The Chairman, Matt Smith, called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Roll Call

Members: Present –Vice Chairman Ralph White; Lois Shinko; Chairman Matt Smith
Absent - Clint Gault

Guests: Paula Pitasky, City of Avon Community Liaison Consultant; Patrick Foye; Eddie Herdendorf, President, Sheffield Village Historical Society; Kathy Keefer, Sheffield Village Historical Society

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of Wednesday, December 11, 2019

A motion was made by Mr. White and seconded by Ms. Pitasky to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, December 11, 2019, and approve said minutes as published. The vote was all ayes and the Chairman declared the motion passed.

Discussion with Patrick Foye, Owner of the Stickney House Note: “Patrick Foyte” is the correct spelling of this name. This correction was made at the Landmarks Preservation Commission meeting of February 12, 2020, under “Approval of Minutes.”

Patrick Foye said that in August, 2019, he purchased 35161 Detroit Road, which Mr. White has informed him is the original Stickney House built in 1837. He stated that there are sandstone walls on the outside and hewn timber floor joints; he is working on the house and trying to bring it back. Mr. Smith said that when he talked with Mr. Foye awhile ago, Mr. Foye told him it could be a challenge and Mr. Smith encouraged him to do what he could. Then he saw work starting and Mr. White stopped over and that is great. Ms. Shinko thanked Mr. Foye so much; she said they were afraid the house was going to be bulldozed. Mr. Foye said that he very much appreciates Mr. White stopping by and explaining the importance of the house. He said that his goal was not always to save it; he did not know that it was saveable but once some people told him that it was and that he did not have to tear it down, then he was interested in it but even more so now under the historical viewpoint of the house and its importance to the City of Avon. He was applauded by everyone.

Mr. Smith said that he remembers as a kid that the Palmer family lived there and that is why the development there is called Palmer Village. Mr. White stated that he keeps a record of all historical plaque recipients so he is going to write that down as the Stickney/Palmer House, so it is not to be confused with Palmer Village. It gives it more identification that way. Note: Stating that “the Stickney/Palmer House is not to be confused with Palmer Village” is incorrect. It is associated with Palmer Village. This correction was made at the Landmarks Preservation Commission meeting of February 12, 2020, under “Approval of Minutes.”

Mr. Foye showed a token to the Commission and said that when they dug the basement of the house, they found this token, which is a merchant’s exchange token from 1837. He said, so that will be framed and in the house and the plaque will be on the outside. He also said that someone had contacted him and said that he has a hand pump from in front of this house and it will be returned and go back up. Mr. Foye explained that the merchant’s exchange token was used kind of as collateral. To research and read about it is kind of fascinating because there were some problems with the stock exchange and they had these

tokens as almost like collateral. The history that shows for Alvin Stickney was that he lent money out and it was described in the history book provided to him by Mr. White.

Ms. Pitasky asked Mr. Foye when he anticipated the construction would be completed and Mr. Foye said that he did not know. He is doing the work himself; he recently retired and has taken a job where he will be off for the summer so he is hoping that this summer he will have a lot more free time to work on it. He hopes to have the exposed floor joints to the second floor cleaned and possibly painted white to make it brighter because it is a low ceiling. He also hopes to leave exposed the main beam on the second floor which he has had people look at and say that they have never seen one shaped that way. The exterior will be vinyl sided for cost purposes and it will be modernized in regard to insulation, wiring, plumbing, HVAC, etc. Mr. White asked Mr. Foye if he would keep the historical architecture of the outside and Mr. Foye answered, yes and no. He said that the number of the windows in the front of the house will probably be reduced from five to three. On the sides he wants to do stacked windows like they were. He wants to leave some of the redeeming features. At this point, there is not going to be an addition. He said that there are some fascinating beams inside; the corner beams are about 9 ft. x 9 ft. and in the center there are some that are 12 ft. x 9 ft. They are really just massive. He said he would like to have all of them walk through before they close things up to really have a look at the structure of it.

Discussion of North Ridge Scenic Byway Strategic Management Plan

Mr. Smith noted that a gentleman had joined the meeting and asked him to introduce himself. Randy Lane did so and said his interest is to hear discussion about the Scenic Byway. He stated that he works for the Northeast Ohio Area Wide Coordinating Agency (NOACA), a transportation planning agency over the five counties of Lorain, Medina, Geauga, Cuyahoga and Lake. They manage the Lake Erie Coastal Ohio Trail. He said that he lived in Columbus for ten years where he worked at ODOT and one of the programs he managed for a number of years was the Scenic Byway Program. When he left ODOT in 2013, Tom Barrett took over the program. Mr. Smith said that they are working with Mr. Barrett now. Mr. Lane continued by saying that ODOT has introduced a template for all 27 Byways to fill out and they are going through that process now for Lake Erie Coastal Ohio Trail. If you know the history of the Scenic Byway Program, it is a federal highway, USDOT, legacy program. It used to have discretionary funding allocations to it that you used to apply to for management planning, staffing, and capital projects but when the 2012 Federal Reauthorization Bill was passed, it stripped all that out. All that is left is the legacy program so for all intents and purposes, it is a grass roots effort. It lives with the people that are on the ground level that want to keep it alive, and he said that is his interest.

Mr. Lane said that he has read the minutes of the LPC meetings online and knows that they have been discussing the Scenic Byway since November and have done a lot of work to start to update the plan, but he really just wanted to hear the discussion and volunteer anything he can do now and moving forward to help. At NOACA, they are doing a lot of things from the marketing perspective. They have developed a mobile app and imbedded in it all of their intrinsic resources, and all of their cultural, recreational, and historic sites so that folks can visit. It was an inexpensive thing to do and they had it done by a company that is located in downtown Cleveland. He is at the meeting tonight not as a representative of NOACA, but as an Avon resident with an interest to listen to discussion and to volunteer to assist in any stakeholder group or committee that they have.

Ms. Pitasky said that there is definitely the opportunity for Mr. Lane to help and she thanked him so much for coming to this meeting and for reading the minutes. They are so appreciative of it. Introductions were then made to Mr. Lane: Matt Smith, Chair of the LPC and a member of the Avon Historical Society; Ralph White, President of the Avon Historical Society and co-author of the original application for the Scenic Byway and Vice-Chair of this Commission; Lois Shinko, member of the LPC; Kathy Keefer, Sheffield Village

Historical Society; Eddie Herdendorf, President, Sheffield Village Historical Society. Mr. Herdendorf added that he and Mr. White put together the original application for the Scenic Byway and he thought that they were the last ones to get any of that extra money because they got a \$10,000. grant to do the guidebook. He informed Mr. Lane that they have now formed a Commission. The Mayors of Avon and Sheffield Village and the trustees of Sheffield Township have all approved the creation of this Commission to mainly put together the management plan for the Scenic Byway but then to continue on for the next five years.

Mr. Lane stated that there is some exciting news which is kind of keeping them going. They have joined forces with Erie County MPO, the Toledo County MPO, and are trying to get some folks in Ashtabula County involved because the Lake Erie Coastal Ohio Trail is one of the six national scenic byways in the State of Ohio and it traverses the full lakefront. They have also been meeting with Green River Coalition and some other folks to really get more involvement. One of the exciting things is that the federal highway is getting a lot of push from some of the grass roots organizations like the National Scenic Byway organization and some of the advocacy groups. They have now opened the door for a new application for national scenic byways and what gets him excited is when you get the attention of these folks, especially the legislature, it just starts to create and open doors for these types of opportunities. We are really hopeful that they are going to reseed the program from a financial perspective. It has now been about seven years that the discretionary funding behind the program went away but there has always been that interest in re-establishing it. So their hope is that all of their efforts to keep the Byway alive will eventually lead to a point where federal highway, USDOT, realizes that that was a good thing and re-establishes that. So there seems to be some traction at the federal level to get some more attention to the program.

Ms. Pitasky stated that we just submitted our packet to ODOT and the way that it was explained to us was that basically there is no guarantee that we will receive any funding. Everyone is being asked to renew so it is almost like a lobbying to show that all these Byways want to renew – there is a demand for this – so give us some funding. So they asked us to put together the programs that we will do and what the cost would be. We really could not commit to that. We were asked what we would put toward the program and we are not in a financial position as a municipality to say what we would commit to this program. We really put it back on them and asked them to tell us what they are going to give us and then we will commit.

Mr. Lane said he is curious about that because it is not a program that requires financial contributions. It is a program that requires you to identify how you are going to manage the Byway over the four years. He has never known there to be any kind of financial commitment that you have to make in doing so. You have to have strategies that you identify to maintain the Byway and to manage it and to promote it, but he has never known there to be any kind of financial requirement associated with it.

Ms. Pitasky stated that, in order to market it, to put up a website, to install additional signage, they wanted us to look for sponsorships for the Byway. They really wanted us to show a very strong commitment which was much greater than what we had done in the past. Mr. Lane asked if there was fear from this group that they were going to be evaluated based on that kind of perspective and Ms. Pitasky said, yes, when she submitted it, they said that they would evaluate and get back to us. She said she would be happy to send the packet to Mr. Lane and he said he would love to see it; he knows the program very well and thought he could be of help.

Ms. Pitasky said that she thought we should hear something by the end of this month, so by our next meeting we will have information if we need to fix something or hopefully, we will have good news. Mr. Lane said that he would reach out to Tom Barrett at ODOT, if they did not mind, to see how he (Mr. Lane) could help in what they have done.

Mr. Herdendorf stated that he has been meeting with both Sheffield Village and their archaeology group and on February 6th, they have the major lecture scheduled and he thinks it is going to be popular as he has been getting a lot of feedback. There has been publicity from the local Historical Societies, and the newspapers and the Lorain Public Library have also agreed to publicize it. Sheffield Village has it on their website. It will be held in Council Chambers of the Sheffield Village Municipal Building at 7:00 P.M. We need to think about some kind of refreshments at that meeting as the speaker, Dr. Redman, said it would be kind of nice if we had some refreshments after the talk so that people will stay and talk; the idea is to have a discussion of archaeology that has been done along French Creek and the Black River area. Mr. Smith added, and pertaining to the Scenic Byway. Mr. Herdendorf said, yes, the major sites have been on the Scenic Byway.

Mr. Herdendorf said that he has talked the archaeology group into having four events a year to do with the Byway in conjunction with the Byway Commission. After the lecture, the second event this spring will be an artifact/fossil/mineral identification workshop where people can bring in their Indian artifacts, etc. and we will have experts there to identify them. The third event will be a field trip where folks can come with us and we will go visit archaeological sites that have been excavated. There is one on W. River Road, near the Red Cross building. It belongs to the Metroparks and was a major Indian village. There are a couple sites on French Creek at the mouth by the Black River. This field trip is still in the planning stage. The fourth thing is something that we do every year. We call it an archaeology dinner and it is at various locations and we bring in a prominent speaker. That will come up in October, which is Archaeology Month. So those are four events that, as they come along, we can put down as a topic in our plan.

Ms. Pitasky asked Mr. Lane if he thought we would know by early to mid-February if we are for sure renewed and Mr. Lane said that he would check on that. He will call tomorrow and send Ms. Pitasky an email. Ms. Pitasky said that the only reason she is asking is because she will be on a deadline for the City newsletter which comes out in mid-March. A lot of people do not know that we are on a Scenic Byway, so to be able to say that we have been renewed for the designation and educate people on that would be great. If we do not find out by then, there will be another newsletter in May so we could hit the May deadline.

Landmarks Letter of Recognition – Ralph White

Mr. White said that he did not have a Letter of Recognition for this month.

Landmark Nominations – Lois Shinko

Ms. Shinko stated that she had given an application for landmark designation to the pastor of the Church of God on Detroit Road but the pastor has not returned it as of yet.

Comments

There were no comments

Date of Next Meeting

Mr. Smith stated that the next meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission would be held on Wednesday, February 12, 2020, in the Caucus Room of Avon City Hall at 7:00 P.M.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Mr. White and seconded by Ms. Pitasky to adjourn the meeting and the vote was all ayes. The Chairman declared the motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Gail Hayden, Assistant Clerk of Council