

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission
Held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building
On Wednesday, January 11, 2023**

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

Roll Call

Members: Present –Vice Chairman Ralph White; Cynthia Murnyack-Czarnecki; Clint Gault; Chairman Matt Smith

Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission Held Wednesday, December 14, 2022

A motion was made by Mr. White and seconded by Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission held Wednesday, December 14, 2022, and approve said minutes as published. The vote was all ayes and the Chairman declared the motion passed.

Update on Center Cemetery

Mr. White said that he had been to the Cemetery and took photographs of what Mike Milano of Milano Monuments and his crew have been doing and they have done a great job. Mr. White showed a photo of the Sweet Monument and pointed out the new cement under it where it had been all caved in and fallen. He said that the Waterman Sweet stone next to it had sunk into the ground and Milano actually pulled it out and remounted it. There were three slabs of sandstone that were part of that that were on the very base. Mike Milano took those and has them at Milano Monuments in Brook Park, and said that we are welcome to have them back.

Mr. White then showed a photo of the plaque of John Bowman; he said that Mike Milano found it in the dirt and left it sitting next to the base of a headstone. Mr. White said that he took photos of where it would have been and he pointed that out on the photo. He said that the plaque was basically a metal bar; it was flattened out with a hammer and then mounted with a copper bolt so it did not corrode. Mr. White said that he took the base of the bar off and then put the copper bolt back in place. Mr. White said he called Mike Milano and told him he was going to take it and clean it up and investigate it. He looked in the records of the Cemetery and John Bowman is buried there and those are the dates. The recorded date is wrong on the death date; it said 1956 but it is 1936 but it was corroded and dirty and it may have already fallen in the dirt and they just left it but at least they recorded it and it is mentioned in the list of people buried on the Mound.

Mr. Smith asked if Mike Milano was going to put that back and Mr. White said that he asked him about that and Mr. Milano said that he could make a cement base, like a pad, and then mount the plaque to it and with a rod, pound it into the ground. But he knows that Mr. White took the plaque to clean it. So Mr. White has to get hold of him again about this and he also needs to contact the Mayor to make sure that this is what he wants to do as far as spending the money to have Milano do that.

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki asked if the plaque could be affixed to one of the slabs that had been removed and Mr. White said that it had to be fastened somehow and if they had some sort of a way to adhere it to sandstone, that is not a bad idea but that is something to talk about down the road. Nothing is going to

happen now until spring or summer anyway. As long as we know the location of where the plaque was and Mike Milano knows that Mr. White took the plaque and has it, we can worry about it later. And we need to talk with the Mayor and see what he wants to do as far as cost effectiveness.

Mr. Gault asked about the history of the Sweets and Mr. White said they are a founding family. Mr. Gault read the inscription that was on the stone of Amy Sweet at the gravesite and Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki noted that it was a tribute from her spouse and from her children.

Mr. White stated that he has looked up John Bowman in City records and directories and could not find a Bowman family at all. So either John Bowman moved here from another town or state or he could possibly have lived in the original Avon Township, which is now Avon Lake. Mr. White added that he did not really have a lot of records as far as directories of families other than tax maps and they are so hard to read. He said that if anybody has any ways to investigate this, to please go ahead.

Mr. Smith said that he stopped at the Cemetery yesterday just to check things out and Mike Milano and his crew were working, and they are going to do another phase this year and keep going. Mr. White said that we talked about cleaning the stones, too, and some are in dire need of that.

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki asked how many years the City is to maintain the Cemetery and Mr. White said he did not know for sure but the City owns it so it is their responsibility. The Cemetery is kind of a landmark and it is something to be proud of because there is a lot of history there. Avon's founders are buried there and also soldiers from the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, WWI, and WWII. Mr. Gault said we have also mentioned in the past, in regard to maintaining the Cemetery, that there is the issue of safety for people visiting it to pay their respects, or for sightseeing, or for the workers who do the mowing. It could be a hazard if stones are falling. Mr. White said, and a concern for safety was the situation with the Amy Sweet monument because if you saw it, you would not believe that it did not fall over. When Tim Stallman of Eternity Monuments first looked at it he said, no, he did not want to get involved with it; it was a liability.

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki stated that her question was not in that regard. Her question was that she has heard that the obligation goes for 100 years beyond the last living survivor. Not that she is questioning the City's interest in it or the City's maintenance and care of it, it was just that, being on this Commission now, she was just curious to know if there is such a rule for the obligation. Mr. White said we are still good because there are still survivors, but both Mr. White and Mr. Smith said that they did not really have the answer for that. Mr. White said that the Law Director would probably have more of an answer than they do.

Landmark Nominations

Mr. White said there were no Landmark Nominations.

Landmark Letters of Recognition

Mr. White stated there were no Letters of Recognition at this time.

Mr. White said that he would like to update the letter that is sent to homeowners in recognition of their pride and good care of a landmark home. He said that there are a couple houses that are worthy of mention that deserve a letter and he would like to get it to them but he wants to come up with something

new as it has been several years since he wrote the original letter. He would like the new letter to be a little different from the original but with the same flavor. He asked Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki if she might think about this and maybe at the next meeting she would have some ideas. He said that he would give her an example of what we have been using.

Member Comments

Mr. Smith stated that Sheri Seroka spoke to him about a week ago and she would like to have a discussion about the tours of the Cahoon House and what was good , what worked, and if we need to refine anything.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Mr. Gault and seconded by Mr. White to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission and the vote was all ayes. The Chairman declared the motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

Date of Next Meeting

Mr. Smith stated that the next meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission would be held on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, in the Council Chambers of Avon City Hall at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Gail Hayden, Assistant Clerk of Council