

**Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Avon Landmarks Preservation Commission
Held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building
On Thursday, February 1, 2024**

The Chair, Cynthia Murnyack-Czarnecki, called the meeting to order at 3:30 P.M.

Roll Call

Members:

Present – David Morahan; Theresa Szimpl; Ralph White; Cynthia Murnyack-Czarnecki

Others in Attendance: Clerk of Council Barbara Brooks

Application for Demolition of 37902 Chester Road and Removal of Said Property from the List of Registered Historic Landmarks

Pam Fechter, City of Avon Planning/Economic Development Coordinator and representative of the property owner, said that several months ago, we were visited by a company called Empowered Community Services. They are an adult program for developmentally disabled individuals. It is a great program; they will actually come to your home, pick up your child, bring them to the facility, let them spend the day, and then take them home in the evening. So for some of our families, it is a really great benefit. So as recently as Christmastime, we learned that Frank Klingshirn, his girlfriend and family of seven children were living in the house. You could tell by the outside of the home kind of its condition, although Ms. Fechter has never seen the inside of the house. The property is now closed, Mr. Klingshirn has moved on with his family and the owner wants to come in and start the demolition process. Ms. Fechter apologized that she did not look to see early on if this house was on the Historic Landmark List; unfortunately she was just thinking that with the condition of the house, there was no way it would be on the List. But at one time it was probably a very lovely home.

Ms. Fechter said that the owners have now gone inside the house and the conditions are deplorable. We want to respect the process of the Landmarks Preservation Commission for demolition and make sure we do this right but our fear is we do not want the son who was living there to come back and then given what we now know about the conditions and the health and safety of the environment, we are a little hesitant to wait that three weeks so that is why we respectfully asked for a meeting to hear this matter sooner. Mr. Fechter said that she appreciates the Commission members coming in on an unscheduled date to listen to this.

Mr. White asked if the house ever had a plaque stating that it was an Historic Landmark and Ms. Fechter said she had no idea. Mr. White stated back when the plaques were issued, people were notified and they either came to pick the plaque up or sometimes we hand delivered them. He said that he did not think a plaque was ever claimed for that house or there was ever one displayed but if there is one, the Commission would like to get it back. Ms. Fechter said, most definitely. Someone from the demolition company has been doing some looking through the house and she will tell him that if he sees something like that, to please get it back to them. Mr. White said, yes, and that way they can repurpose it.

Mr. White noted that he grew up in the area of where this house to be demolished is located. The family in that house owned the whole corner there where A.J. Rose, the Great Escape, Timberlakes, and UH Hospital are now and they grew grapes back in the 60s and 70s and even before that. They farmed it all but then began selling off the land and little by little it all got sold off.

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki asked if the family has not found safe housing and so we suspect they may come back and try to resume living on this property? Ms. Fechter said that they have found safe housing and she thought that the individual living there needed the property to close in order to move on to the next step. They spent a lot of time working with his attorney and the attorney from Empowered Community Services on how we could get him money in advance. She explained to the company that she understood that they did not want to close unless Mr. Klingshirn was out of the house but he could not move out of the house without money or storage facility. He had a lot of things to go through and he needed a moving truck and someplace to stay. So we connected the attorneys and worked that out. He has been given a work program in Toledo and is buying a home.

Mr. White asked if the demolition was scheduled and Ms. Fechter said they are coming in tomorrow to pick up their demolition permit. They still need to get their crew in and figure out the timing but she was thinking that they will get started sometime over this weekend or next week.

A motion was made by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Morahan to approve the application for demolition of 37902 Chester Road and removal of said property from the List of Registered Historic Landmarks. The vote was: Mr. Morahan, "yes"; Ms. Szimpl, "yes"; Mr. White, "yes"; Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki "yes". The Chair declared the motion passed.

Adjourn – 3:41 P.M.

A motion was made by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Morahan to adjourn the Special Meeting of the Avon Landmarks Preservation Commission, and the vote was: Ms. Szimpl, "yes"; Mr. White, "yes"; Mr. Morahan, "yes"; Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki, "yes". The Chair declared the motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Gail Hayden, Assistant Clerk of Council