

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission  
Held in the Caucus Room of the Municipal Building  
On Wednesday, March 13, 2019**

The Chairman, Matt Smith, called the meeting to order at 7:08 P.M.

**Roll Call**

Members: Present –Vice Chairman Ralph White; Clint Gault; Chairman Matt Smith

Absent - Lois Shinko

**Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of Wednesday, February 13, 2019**

A motion was made by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Gault to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, February 13, 2019, and approve said minutes as published and the vote was all ayes. The Chairman declared the motion passed.

**Landmarks Letter of Recognition – Ralph White**

Mr. White stated that he had nothing for this month but a letter would be coming with the spring season.

**Landmark Nominations – Lois Shinko**

Since Ms. Shinko was absent, there was no discussion for this item.

**Comments**

Mr. White asked if the Commission had found out when everyone's terms were up. Mr. Smith said that he knew that 2019 was his third year of a four-year term. Mr. Gault said that he believed that he was good on his term but we will confirm those for next month. Mr. White then asked if the Mayor and the Law Director would be attending the next meeting of the LPC and Mr. Smith responded, yes, they will be here for our April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. White asked what would be covered at that meeting and Mr. Smith said that one of the things would be possibly getting rid of the demolition permit and replacing it with the requirement that people that want to alter a historic building on their property have to come to the LPC to talk with us about it before the Planning Commission would approve their building permits. This is so we would have an opportunity to talk with people because he thought they all agreed that the demolition permit was not serving any purpose. Mr. Gault added, and the other thing we talked about was having a process to replace a member of the LPC. Mr. Smith said, like giving the Mayor the authority to appoint people to this Commission. Mr. White stated that they talked about that having to be in the Charter so we need to get that in the next Charter Review. Mr. Smith noted that would give the Mayor more latitude in filling these positions with other people that may not be members of the Historical Society, the French Creek Foundation, or the Garden Club. Mr. White added it would be good if we had criteria for appointing people to the LPC. He felt that to just put anybody in the position is not really helping the situation.

Mr. Smith informed Mr. Gault that the Norton Townshend historical marker was up. Mr. White said, yes, he stopped to see it and it looks good, other than being crooked. He said he thought that he could fix it; the way that it is put on there, it has set screws that kind of secure to the pole and if you screw one set screw in too far, it moves it to a position that cannot move back. So he thought if he loosened them all and pulled them out, then positioned the marker better and then turned each screw in slowly until they

all closed in on that position, that would work. Mr. Smith said that the paint job on the marker is far superior to what was crumbling off there before.

Mr. Smith stated that he read an article in the paper about building the new Veterans Memorial behind the Police and Fire Stations. The problem with the current memorial at the corner of Detroit Road and Rt. 83 is that if someone wanted to go and sit there as a veterans memorial site, there is no parking and all that traffic. So this new memorial is going to be in a quiet area, and he thought that it was supposed to be done by this summer.

Mr. Gault stated that nobody even saw the memorial at the corner of Rt. 83 unless you were really looking for it. And it is not an area that was designed for events. People are close to the road and traffic is zooming by. And so by moving it, you are paying more respect and it will be in an area where it is safer for people. The City is having more and more events at that location by the Aquatic Facility and it is a destination point. It is centralized and there are many things that people can do there. He stated that there is a trend of people wanting convenience, of having things taken care of and doing things at one place at one time. Also, the cost structure is brought down for the City by having multiple facilities in one place; there is one driveway, one set of lights. At the area there we will have the Aquatic Center, the playground, the History Walk, the Story Book Walk, the Veterans Memorial and maybe an extension of the library. Mr. Smith asked if there was any discussion at the French Creek Foundation of what would happen by the Mound Cemetery if they remove some of the memorial and Mr. Gault said that part of what they talked about was to put in a water fountain feature there.

Mr. Smith asked if Mr. White or Mr. Gault had heard anything about a walking/biking trail around the City. He said that the City is working on a grant for that. There was something in the paper a while ago about having the path over by Crushers Stadium and the Y and running along the high tension wires and coming out right across the street on Detroit Road where the old Avondale Golf Course was. He said that he asked the Mayor about it a couple months ago and he said that it looks like they are going to get the grant money. They eventually want to have a walking/biking/multi-purpose trail around the whole City to make it more pedestrian friendly. The Mayor said at some point there would be public meetings on that.

Mr. White noted that it looks like the old IGA is going to come down and Mr. Smith added that he saw that Smith's market has closed. Mr. White said, yes, the store has been closed and is for sale. Those were the two original grocery stores in Avon, the only ones in town back in the day.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

Mr. Smith stated that the next meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission would be held on Wednesday, April 10, 2019, in the Caucus Room of Avon City Hall at 7:00 P.M.

### **Adjourn**

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

Transcribed by Gail Hayden, Assistant Clerk of Council