

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Avon Landmarks Preservation Commission
Held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building
On Wednesday, March 13, 2024**

The Chair, Cynthia Murnyack-Czarnecki, called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Roll Call

Members:

Present-David Morahan, Theresa Szimpl; Vice-Chair Ralph White; Chair Cynthia Murnyack-Czarnecki

Also in Attendance: Rachel Markovitz, Assistant Clerk of Council and Barbara Brooks, Clerk of Council

Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Avon Landmarks Preservation Commission Held Wednesday, February 14, 2024

A motion was made by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Morahan to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Avon Landmarks Preservation Commission held Wednesday, February 14, 2024, and approve said minutes as published. The vote was: Mr. Morahan "yes"; Ms. Szimpl, "yes"; Mr. White, "yes"; Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki, "yes".

Application for the Demolition of 4065 Jaycox Road and Removal of Said Property from the List of Registered Historic Landmarks

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki asked if there was a representative of the property present.

Ken Myers advised he was representing the property at 4065 Jaycox Road on behalf of REMAX for Fannie Mae.

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki asked Mr. Myers if he would like to share with the commission his comments about the application to remove this property from the Historic Registry. Mr. Myers advised that Fannie Mae acquired the property through a foreclosure. At this time, Fannie Mae has approved for the barn and shed to be demolished and due to the poor conditions, it is a safety hazard. He said he has also included the home on the application because everything has been neglected for so long. Mr. Myers indicated they have three options but Fannie Mae does things in steps, and their first step would be to take care of any safety issues that would hurt somebody and so they feel the barn and shed would be step one and then after that they would assess either toward repairing the house, or demolishing and rebuilding a new house or selling as is. Mr. Myers said he supplied about 132 photos hoping that helps as to why they want to move forward with the demolition. He has been trying to find somebody, if it was approved, to salvage the wood from the barn but he has not been successful in that aspect.

Mr. White asked how much property is there? Mr. Myers believed it to be maybe a 1.3-acre lot in the wetlands. Mr. White asked if he was immediately looking at the shed and the barn and of course possibly the house down the road. Mr. Myers stated yes, and that he added the house to the application because the Landmark Preservation Commission meets only once a month.

Mr. Myers said if they move forward to demolish the house, they would be able to do that without another meeting. Mr. White stated, we could just approve that as a part of this request and then they would not have to worry. Mr. White mentioned repurposing the wood and said in the barn there is some good wood there. Mr. Myers agreed and said he hates to see it go to a landfill. Mr. Myers said the other issue he was talking about was the wetlands part of it where the path of the barn is sitting in the water right now from the rains they have had and they would get stuck back there and it could be really difficult.

Mr. White asked about the semi toward the back of the property if he knew anything about that. Mr. Myers stated they went through with an eviction and the problem was that it is a titled vehicle, and the other remedy is to have the City of Avon Police tag it, tow it, and remove it. Mr. Myers indicated they have refused, the City Law Director refuses to do anything, and the Mayor will not call him back and the Safety Director will not step up so he keeps asking everybody in the City of Avon to tell him what the legal remedy was, and they will not and so he is stuck. Mr. White asked if he does not have a title and Mr. Myers stated no, he does not so when it comes to eviction it would say Avon Lake Municipal Court and that Bailiff stated they do not have the authority, that he needs the Avon Police to do it. It is supposed to happen, the Avon Chief of Police told me him that he can go get a title. He said no, that is not how the law works. Mr. Myers said he called the Avon Law Director, and he will not do it, and he talked to the Avon Safety Director. Mr. Myers felt the problem was to get it out of its current location, it is kind of enclosed back there. The thought was once the structures were torn down; they were going to have them drag it to the front of the property which would make it easier for someone to tow away. Mr. White indicated he may have a contact for Mr. Myers if he would leave him his contact information. Mr. Myers said he would do that. Mr. White thanked Mr. Myers for the pictures, and noted he requested them kind of at the last minute, but he likes to see pictures when they cannot go inside of a house, a lot of times they look fine on the outside, but the inside is really bad, so they need to have a look through, usually there is never a problem and he provided some great photos.

Mr. Myers stated they were also sending a structural engineer to look at the foundation, it was very tough to see in the house and there may be some real safety issues because it is sagging. Fannie Mae is more likely to demolish the house if there were huge safety issues. Mr. White stated the basement walls look pretty rough and Mr. Myers agreed and said very. Mr. White asked if he knows the age of the house. Mr. Myers stated that he believed it was the early 1880's. Mr. White stated that barn looks pretty old as well.

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki asked Mr. Morahan if he had any comments. Mr. Morahan stated he looked at it and agreed it is rough. Mr. Myers added the neighbors would be so happy if they tore everything down. Mr. Morahan agreed.

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki asked Ms. Szimpl if she had any comments or questions. No comments by Ms. Szimpl. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki asked Mr. White if had any further comments and he responded no.

A motion was made by Mr. White and seconded by Ms. Szimpl to approve the application for demolition of the structures at 4065 Jaycox Road and remove said property from the list of registered historic landmarks, and the vote was: Mr. White, "yes"; Ms. Szimpl, "yes"; Mr. Morahan, "yes"; Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki, "yes".

The Chair declared the motion passed.

Mr. Myers inquired was advised to take the signed and approved application form to the Avon Building Department to get his demolition permit.

Landmarks Nominations

There were no nominations made.

Landmarks Letters of Recognition

Mr. White advised he had nothing for this month, but indicated he mailed last month's letter.

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki thanked Mr. White and asked if there are any other Letters of Recognition suggestions from the members of the commission, and the members unanimously stated "none";

Member Comments

Mr. Morahan had no comments.

Ms. Szippel had no comments.

Mr. White, said he met with Gravestone Restorations at the Mound Cemetery, and they picked markers to be leveled, straightened and repaired, nothing big in nature and they were talking about some landscaping. Someone planted some plants, flowers, and he do not know what kind of plants they were and there was a big flowerpot on the top and he asked about volunteers from the Avon Garden Club if they would like to come up and do something with that. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki said she did not know but would find out.

Mr. White said he would like to get the wheels in motion for some more cleaning of headstones, to get some more students involved, maybe the same ones as last year and then they will start on that work. He said he would like to start from the Detroit Rd and State Route 83 street side going south and that will be the focus. There is going to be a lot of work going on. When they have some idea how many kids and dates then they set a time. Maybe by next month they will have an idea to see how they want to do it and if the Garden Club wants to volunteer anytime by fixing some of the plants and maybe planting something in that planter at the top of the mound that would be appreciated.

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki stated she will come with Mr. White to look at the planter before she approaches the Garden Club. Ms. Murnyack- Czarnecki added that whatever t h e y plant in has to be able to survive under the rain and other weather conditions. Mr. White agreed.

Ms. Murnyack- Czarnecki stated as far as the students the Leo Club was interested in helping again this season and she would approach them. One of the questions that she had was the headstones that are going to be worked on by Gravestone Restorations if they also on the State Route 83 side. Mr. White advised yes. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki then inquired, if they would be more visible when they were repaired in which Mr. White confirmed yes. Mr. White added there's a couple repairs on the southeast side that they were going to fix. There is one Civil War Marker that they overlooked, and they were going to raise that and it is on the southeast side and he was up there this morning and I put another star in front of another marker that they did not see. Mr. White said he was up there a week or so ago and he does not have a new star and the old star was there, it was all rusted laying there. So, he got a new one in the post and put that one in this morning.

Mr. Morahan asked if anyone asked the Boy Scouts if they want to help. Mr. White stated no, but felt that was a good idea. Mr. Morahan stated they love getting in their service hours and Mr. White agreed yes, and not only that but Eagle Scout projects were another avenue. Mr. Morahan agreed. Mr. Morahan advised Troop 333 is in Avon, and he could find out who was still active in that organization. Mr. White advised yes and added the more the merrier. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki thanked Mr. Morahan for that suggestion.

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki advised as the weather was starting to improve, they can begin taking inventory of the veterans that are in the cemetery. Mr. White responded, yes, they need to do that. He suggested they divide the cemetery into sections and start walking the rows noting the name, birth and death date and in what war they served.

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki inquired if there were any documents that the City has that they can use to compare what is in their records. Mr. White responded he has a list of people that are buried there. It would work out good for spellings and headstones that were hard to read if they know who is next to them or what row they were looking as it is just a list and they could use it for reference. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki thanked Mr. White and noted that she would plan to work with him on that project. Mr. White agreed and asked the deadline. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki advised they have until the summer was over for sure, and she cannot remember the exact date, but it is in the minutes from the last meeting, but they have plenty of time. Mr. White stated two sets of eyes were better than one, even if they had two pairs of people walking the rows as they were easy to miss and Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki agreed and stated that was why she was asking about a document from the City. Mr. White stated that he has the same list the City does, it mentions military but not much else.

There were no additional comments from the members.

Audience Comments

There were no comments from the audience.

Adjourn: 7:18 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Morahan to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, and the vote was: Mr. White "yes", Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki "yes", Mr. Morahan "yes," Ms. Szimpl "yes".

The Chair declared that the meeting was adjourned and announced that the next Regular Meeting of the Avon Landmarks Preservation Commission would be held on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, in the Council Chambers of Avon City Hall at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Rachel Markovitz, Assistant Clerk of Council