

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Avon Landmarks Preservation
Commission Held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building
On Wednesday, May 8, 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: John Gasior, Law Director; Rachel Markovitz, Assistant Clerk of Council

Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Avon Landmarks Preservation Commission Held
Wednesday, April 10, 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, April 10, 2024, and approve said minutes as published. The vote was: Ms. Szimpl, "yes"; Mr. White, "yes"; Mr. Morahan, "yes", Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki, "yes".

The vote was 4 for and 0 against and the Chair declared the motion passed.

Landmarks Nominations:

Mr. White

APPLICATION FOR THE ADDITION OF 3115 STONEY RIDGE RD. TO THE REGISTRY OF HISTORIC LANDMARKS

Mr. White advised they have a house they are going to add to the Registry of Historical Landmarks as it was overlooked back in 2003-2004 during the original survey. Mr. White advised once he found out that the property owners did not have a plaque and they were not on the list, they wanted to now ensure the property owners were added to the list of Historical Landmarks. Mr. White added that the property owners are excited to be added to the list of Historical Landmarks and are willing to proceed with the application in which he and Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki worked on and they have a copy available.

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki noted the address as 3115 Stoney Ridge Rd. in Avon, and the property owners are John P. and Karla M. Callahan. Mr. White advised he has two pictures of the house that he had taken for viewing reference to the Commission. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki inquired if Mr. White could give some history of the house including possible ownerships. Mr. White stated that one of the property owners, Karla Callahan, went to the recorder's office and received information that it was the Casper-Mohr House. Mr. White advised he has a tax map from 1874 that shows a house there, he could not say

whether it is that house or not, he believes the house to have been built in 1880, and Mrs. Callahan has a record of the Casper-Mohr Family living behind the property in 1898. Mr. White stated he went to school with people who had lived there for probably 30 years and who moved out in the late 1980s. The individual that sold it to the Callahan's was in the construction field.

Ms. Szimpl stated she knows that Jacob and Emma Moore owned the house on that property and then they willed it to their daughter Sophia Mohr when she married Nicholas Casper in 1901. She added they raised their family there and had five sons and that Safiya died in either in 1965 or 1969 so it did not stay within the family for the two other parties. Ms. Szimpl commented that the house has definitely been there since the 1880s or earlier. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki stated that the lineage of the home is definitely there as being a Century Home and that the homeowners are interested in having their property listed locally as a Landmark.

A motion was made by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Morahan to approve the application for the addition of 3115 Stoney Ridge Rd. to the Registry of Historical Landmarks, and the vote was: Mr. White, "yes"; Mr. Morahan, "yes", Ms. Szimpl, "yes"; Ms. Murnyack- Czarnecki, "yes".

The Chair declared the motion passed. She stated the home currently owned by John P. and Karla M. Callahan at 3115 Stoney Ridge Rd. in Avon, Ohio, will be added to the Landmark Designation List.

After some discussion, Mr. Gasior advised that the photos would stay with the city records and be part of the minutes. It was also noted that Mr. White would give the photos to the Clerk to be included in the City records and the permanent photo book of Registered Historical Landmarks.

Landmarks Letters of Recognition

Mr. White

There were no letters of recognition.

Discussion of the Open House at the George Sweet House, 32345 Detroit Rd., on Thursday, May 9, 2024, from 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki advised the George Sweet House, according to the Avon Historical Society and its publication from New England to the Western Reserve, is part of a potpourri of Century Homes in Avon's French Creek Historic District. She also noted that the George Sweet House was built circa 1820 in a Western Reserve Colonial Style. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki added this historic community treasure located at 32345 Detroit Rd., has been occupied and cared for by Lois and Robert Shinko for many years. She noted that their children Anne Marie and David, are hosting an open house on Thursday, May 9, 2024, from 5:30-8:00 p.m. to showcase their parent's vintage charmer. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki advised that members of the Landmark Preservation Commission along with their spouses and families are cordially invited to attend the Open House and enjoy the beauty and ambiance of a bygone era through this steeped in history home. There were no further comments.

Update on the Center Cemetery Cleaning Gravestone Project – Possibilities for Expanding the Volunteer Pool

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki advised the Center Cemetery gravestone cleaning project is a big task and will require a large volunteer pool. She noted a suggestion was made to reach out to Boy Scout Troop 333 and that several of the Commission members have been working on expanding the volunteer pool for the project. She stated that Mr. Morahan, Mr. White, and herself reached out at various times and by different means to the Boy Scout Troop 333 Leader to invite the troop to participate in this community service project. Ms. Szippel stated the Boy Troop 333 Leader Mr. Wendling has been out of the country traveling. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki advised the Commission will await Mr. Wendling's response upon his return. She stated the Leo Club volunteers, according to their faculty advisor Cameron Walters, have historically been willing to volunteer in the fall for different projects. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki commented that seemed to be the case as far as the gravestone cleaning project because in the fall they had a large pool of Leo Club volunteers working on the project on two separate occasions.

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki advised for the first scheduled opportunity this spring, Saturday, April 27th, there were two volunteers who signed up from the Leo Club; however, the weather was not conducive to working on the project and the session was cancelled. She added the second scheduled opportunity would be this Saturday, May 11th, 2024; however, the senior prom is scheduled for that day which may be a contributing factor as to why there are so few student volunteers for the session. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki noted there are two students who signed up, Nimrit Dhillan and Paige Montague. She advised both students worked on the stones last fall and they were good workers who have an understanding of the process. She added if the weather holds on Saturday, May 11th, they are both looking forward to working on the stones. Mr. White inquired if they want to proceed with just two student volunteers. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki confirmed as she believes these particular volunteers will do a good 4 hours of work. Mr. White inquired if they could get a couple more people to work with them. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki agreed and stated that the Commission has thus far relied on youth volunteers to keep the project moving along yet it may be time to consider broadening our pool.

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki advised they might consider putting a piece in the paper about the cemetery and about the restoration and asking interested citizens to consider volunteering. She added when the student volunteers read about this in the paper, those interested can respond by phone or email to Commission members who could explain about the project, what it entails if they are truly interested and can do that type of work. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki noted of course they do not want to be overrun with volunteers from the community as they have limited supplies that they are using; however, the cemetery is a community treasure and there may be citizens who enjoy helping restore it to its former state.

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki inquired if there were any comments about putting this information in the paper. Mr. White mentioned like Avon In The Know and Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki confirmed. Mr. White stated it would probably be a good idea, although he does not think it is needed right away. He added after prom they can setup another time and see if they get more student volunteers and they can go from there.

Mr. White stated the Boy Scouts might materialize and inquired if Mr. Morahan talked to anyone by email or phone. Mr. Morahan responded that he tried the Troop 333 Leader, Mr. Wendling, contact email but received no response. He added that he also had Mr. Wendling's personal cell phone number from when he was in the Scouts and he saw it on his website, confirmed the number and sent a text but there was also no response. Mr. Morahan advised he tried calling Mr. Wendling again and that was within the past 2-3 weeks. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki advised that they will give him some more time to respond.

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki inquired if there were any additional comments about expanding the volunteer pool outside of the three youth groups that they have contacted thus far and consisting of the Boy Scouts and Leo Club. Mr. White inquired if Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki would be present on Saturday, May 11th. She advised that she would not be present for that event. Ms. Szimpl inquired on the start time of the event and Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki advised it was from 8 a.m-1:00 p.m. Mr. White advised that he will be there. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki stated hopefully the weather will not rain on everyone. Mr. White asked if they should keep the session if it rains as they will not want to work in the rain. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki stated if they do not want to work in the rain then the session could be cancelled. Mr. White inquired if Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki has a contact in case the event is cancelled and he can take care of that circumstance if need be, Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki confirmed that she has a contact available in case of cancellation.

Member Comments:

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki asked Mr. White if he had any information about how the Bicentennial exhibit is transported and its size. Mr. White stated that the Lorain County Historical Society will transport it and it is an easy setup, it is a fairly good size and would not fit here at City Hall. He noted that the library made a couple contacts as it is in touch with the schools thus, they would not have to do anything. Mr. White advised there is a schedule of events in different cities, he believes he has an email of where it is going to be and on what date. He commented that Avon's library would have had to organize that with them and he would have been aware it. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki clarified to Mr. White that it would not be coming to City Hall and Mr. White confirmed that it would not be coming to City Hall. He spoke with the Mayor's Administrative Assistant, and she stated it does not practically fit any particular place here as the lobby would be the only place for it at City Hall but it would not be the best place for it.

Audience Comments:

There were no audience comments.

Adjourn: 7:16 p.m.

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

The vote was 4 for and 0 against and the Chair declared the motion passed.

The Chair announced that the next Regular Meeting of the Avon Landmarks Preservation Commission would be held on Wednesday, June 12, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.

Note: Photos of the nominated property at 3115 Stoney Ridge Rd, Avon are attached to these minutes as part of the record.

Respectfully submitted by Rachel Markovtiz, Assistant Clerk of Council





