

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission
Held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building
On Wednesday, May 12, 2021**

The Chairman, Matt Smith, called the meeting to order at 7:45 P.M.

Roll Call

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

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of Wednesday, April 14, 2021

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, April 14, 2021, and approve said minutes as published. The vote was all ayes and the Chairman declared the motion passed.

Landmarks Letter of Recognition – Ralph White

Mr. White stated that he had nothing for this month

Landmark Nominations – Lois Shinko

Ms. Shinko said, no, she did not have anything.

Mr. White said to follow up on that, Jason Hirz has received his plaque for the house that was nominated last month. Mr. Smith said, yes, the Buckingham House on Detroit Road. He added that he took a photograph of the house and will put it in the binder with the paperwork.

Comments

Mr. Smith stated that Sheri Seroka, who is in charge of setting up the museum at the Cahoon House, had a moving company distribute the antique furniture that was stored in the garage and basement, to the different rooms in the house. So now she can work on cleaning up the furniture and getting things organized how she sees fit. So that is moving along now so that is very good. Also, Mr. Smith said that he spoke with landscaper Rick Varga and he is going to make two gardens on the south side of the Cahoon House. One garden will have native species of trees that the pioneers and Native Americans would have utilized for medicines and foods, etc. and he wants to have an herb garden with a similar feature. Mr. Smith was looking over Mr. Varga's lists of plants and trees and he is going to get some more to add to it and then they will get a final list of what they want to do. So there will be a mini arboretum there and an herb garden related to what the pioneers and Native Americans would have utilized. So that will be very good for educational purposes with field trips. And like the History Walk where we have displays, there will be a display with the photos of those plants and trees and explanations, etc. So that will be nice up there at the house.

Mr. Smith stated that last week at the Avon Historical Society meeting, Mr. White had Margaret Chaney come in to speak on the Stickney House; her husband is related to a Stickney. The Stickney House is the 1837 wood frame house that sits on Detroit Road past Stratford Village. And the Stickney House a lot of times is called the Palmer House. Ms. Chaney did a really interesting presentation on the family and the house. It was enlightening and Mr. Smith thanked Mr. White for having her speak.

Mr. Smith said that Mr. White had said that he wanted to mention the Barrows House.

Mr. White said, yes, he had a couple things that he wanted to mention about the Barrows House which is located on Rt. 611 across from Northgate. It has also been known as the Highland House but has been called many things. It is now part of Our Lady of the Wayside. Somebody is doing some research on the property, the house, and the family and she asked him if he had any information. He came up with some things from his maps and directories, etc. In 1851 A. Barrows had 100 acres and it was almost all of Northgate, all the way to Moore Road, and then on the south side of the road also which is where the house is. In 1874, which is when Mr. White imagined that the house was built, Herman Barrow lived there. The property was split up into different parcels to other members of the family and they owned the property and then they sold it again and in 1898, the Highland family lived there. They owned everything but 18 acres on the west side where Moore Road is. In 1927, the Perott family lived there on the 18 acres and then it was sold to the Bommer family and that was actually the Bommer homestead. In 1948 Dr. Benesh was in there and he had a health school in the home. And then William Gauchet lived there probably from 1960 to 1983 and he was the one that turned it into Our Lady of the Wayside. Mr. Smith asked Mr. White if he had said that property was for sale and Mr. White answered, not right now. Our Lady of the Wayside still owns it and he does not really know what is going on with it but it is an outstanding house. It is brick and well taken care of and on the outside it is very original. There was also another house that was moved there in the late 1980's in between Ray's Auto and Truck Service and that house.

Mr. White stated, and then another little piece of history was left in his door today and there was a note saying that he could keep it for his records. It was a receipt from the Stone Salvage Company from 2002 and they came in and rebuilt and releveled the sandstone steps at the Old Town Hall. In 2002, that work cost \$3,750. so you can imagine what it would cost today.

Mr. White said that tomorrow he was going to move some of his historical artifacts from his house up to the Old Town Hall. He has too much of it at home as he has been the curator of everything and it has taken over. There is a cabinet at the Old Town Hall and it is a big perfect bookshelf so he is going to put a lot of the books that the Historical Society has had, in there, so anybody can borrow them. He is also going to put the Society's Avon Yearbook collection in there so there will be old yearbooks and other books that can go there and other artifacts. So he is just working in that direction of organizing things where people can see them.

Mr. Smith said that he wanted to mention to Ms. Shinko and Mr. Gault that he and Mr. White are meeting tomorrow with Donna Kelly Sprinkle, Director of the Avon Branch Library, and Aaron Jenkins, the IT person for the City of Avon, regarding a website to carry on his father's Avon History website. After his father's death, Mr. Smith's family wanted to save that website and so they signed it over to the City. So the City now owns the website and Mayor Jensen and Mr. Jenkins said that we can make that the Avon Historical Society website and have his father's information on there. The Avon Branch Library has the Lorain County Memory.org website which includes oral histories of some Avon residents and so we can make links to Lorain County Memory.org on this City website. Jason Hirz, who bought the Buckingham House, is well versed in working with websites and he told Mr. White that he would like to help with this new website and he will be at the meeting tomorrow as well. The meeting is tomorrow at 2:00 P.M. here at City Hall.

Mr. Gault stated that Ms. Shinko's daughter, Ann Marie, is organizing an anniversary party for The Country Store and to celebrate all that Ms. Shinko has done. It is going to be at Avon Isle on the Friday of the Aunt Teake and Uncle Junke weekend and everyone will be receiving invitations.

Date of Next Meeting

Mr. Smith stated that the next meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission would be held on Wednesday, June 9, 2021, in the Council Chambers of Avon City Hall at 7:00 P.M.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Mr. Gault and seconded by Mr. White 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