

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Avon Landmarks Preservation  
Commission Held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building  
On Wednesday, June 12, 2024**

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

**Roll Call**

Members:

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

Absent- David Morahan

Also in Attendance: Rachel Markovitz, Assistant Clerk of Council

**Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Avon Landmarks Preservation Commission Held  
Wednesday, May 8, 2024**

A motion was made by Mr. White and seconded by Ms. Szimpl to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Avon Landmarks Preservation Commission held Wednesday, May 8, 2024, and approve said minutes as published. The vote was: Ms. Szimpl, "yes"; Mr. White, "yes"; Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki, "yes".

The vote was 3 for and 0 against and the Chair declared the motion passed.

**Landmarks Nominations:**

Mr. White

**APPLICATION FOR THE ADDITION OF 2574 STONEY RIDGE RD. TO THE REGISTRY OF HISTORIC LANDMARKS**

Mr. White advised they have a Landmark Nomination this evening which is 2574 Stoney Ridge Road. He noted that the homeowner is here to submit his application with accompanying photos for a plaque.

David Alten of 2574 Stoney Ridge Road was present to submit his application for review by the Commission.

Mr. White advised he will pass along the application to the other members to review and Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki inquired if Ms. Szimpl could read the application for record purposes. Ms. Szimpl advised the application notes a date of May 14, 2024, the street address is 2574 Stoney Ridge Road in Avon and the applicant is David Alten who is also the property owner. The date of the estimated construction is 1920s and the style of architecture known is Craftsman. The reasons why the criteria should apply is due to the house being of the Classic Craftsman style, which was prevalent in the 1920s, the house is located in an area of several other Century Homes, and the house has been well-maintained in addition to more plans to restore more of its charm including the front porch and the correct house color.

Ms. Szimpl advised Mr. Alten submitted the application, and the property is located in the French Creek District. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki thanked Ms. Szimpl and advised that the Chair notes that three photos of the home have been provided by Mr. Alten. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki inquired which criteria under the

Landmarks Selection Criteria is listed on the application. Ms. Szimpl advised the criteria is 1, 5, and 10. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki advised criteria 1 states, "its character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City of Avon, State of Ohio or the United States"; criteria 5 states, "its portrayal of the environment of a group of people in the era of history characterized by a distinctive architectural style"; and criteria 10 states, "its unique location of singular physical characteristics representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, rural area or of the City of Avon."

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki inquired if there is any further discussion. Ms. Szimpl commented that Mr. Alten is one of her neighbors and confirmed he is in the French Creek District and his home is definitely a Craftsman style home and should be duly noted on our Landmark Designation List and receive a plaque. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki stated before they entertain a motion she inquired if Mr. Alten had any comments he would like to make in addition to his application. Mr. Alten stated he did not have any comments. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki inquired if there is a motion to add Mr. Alten's property at 2574 Stoney Ridge Road to the List of Historical Homes in the City of Avon.

A motion was made by Mr. White and seconded by Ms. Szimpl to add the property located at 2574 Stoney Ridge Road to the List of Historical Homes in the City of Avon and the vote was: Mr. White, "yes"; Ms. Szimpl, "yes"; Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki, "yes".

The vote was 3 for and 0 against and the Chair declared the motion passed.

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki congratulated Mr. Alten that his home has been added to the List of Historic Properties in Avon. Mr. White presented Mr. Alten with a plaque to display on his home.

#### Landmarks Letters of Recognition

Mr. White

There were no letters of recognition.

#### Comments on the George Sweet House, 32345 Detroit Road, following the Open House

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki stated it was a pleasure to be able to step back in time into a Greek Revival Style Farmhouse built in the late 1820s. She added the front entrance and the stairway are beautiful features of that home. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki stated that when it was built, the main house had six spacious rooms and standing in the home today describing the rooms as spacious is an understatement. She commented the rooms are indeed quite large. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki stated that the hope is that the purchaser will care for the home and preserve it as the Shinko's have done for many years. Mr. White stated that he was looking on the Landmark List and the house was on the list but there was never a plaque. He added that he has been in touch with Ms. Shinko's daughter Ann Marie Shinko-Brown, and she picked up a plaque this week.

Mr. White advised there is a plaque on the front of the house that says, "The George Sweet Home," dated approximately 1830. Mr. White advised Ms. Shinko-Brown to put the new plaque above the other one as he believes it would look best right in the front for optimal visibility.

Mr. White advised he went past the George Sweet Home yesterday and the new plaque was not up yet, but the owners may need some additional time to get it displayed. He added that the house is for sale by owner now and there has been a lot of traffic at the house although maybe not as much as they would

like. Mr. White stated hopefully it sells and commented that he had a family member go and look at it and they said it was too much work for them but believed the price to be fair. He added the time and investment on the interior was more than the owners could do, but he hopes someone sees it and falls in love with it. Mr. White commented that front entrance doorway with the sidelights is just amazing especially from the inside coming down from the stairs, and looking at the front door there are ornate carvings on the frames and the look on the exterior is amazing. Mr. White advised the house is a good example of a Greek Revival Style Entryway, because many of them are conservative in style like the Cahoon House. He added the Cahoon House style is Greek Revival, but it does not have a grand door like the George Sweet Home.

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki inquired of Ms. Szippel that she was inside the George Sweet Home. Ms. Szippel advised she has been in the home several times and confirmed that it would be sad to see that go but there is a lot of work to do and with owning a Century home herself she can relate to that. She added as Mr. White commented it would be nice to have someone get in there and put it back to its original beauty.

Update on the Center Cemetery Cleaning Gravestone Project – Volunteer Pool and Scheduled Cleaning Session, June 15, 2024 Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki advised that according to Scoutmaster Mr. Matthew Wendling, Avon Boy Scout Troop 333 scouts are willing to help clean the gravestones. Mr. Wendling stated to Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki he will confirm with her following the scout meeting on Thursday, June 13, 2024, that the scouts will indeed be present Saturday morning from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on June 15, 2024, weather permitting. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki advised the plan is not only to enlist the scouts to work in pairs and clean the stones but to also have a pair of scouts and an adult walk the cemetery row by row to search for and document veterans laid to rest in the cemetery. She stated this information will be helpful when they begin planning and ordering the wreaths for the Wreaths Across America program in the fall.

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki advised that Mr. Morahan suggested they reach out to the City to request any records they may have to assist in this project. She noted they reached out to the City to ask for the records and Ms. Morahan, Administrative Assistant from the City's Service Department offered a document titled "Soldiers of 1861." Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki advised it is a list of soldiers compiled courtesy of Mr. Bennett, a town Clerk, the list indicates the names of the soldiers, the month and year the soldier enlisted, the company and regiment in which the soldier served and if known, information on where the soldier died and where the soldier was laid to rest. She added not all of the soldiers on that list were buried at the Avon Center Cemetery. She noted another document was also provided, it was a 31-page list organized by row and plot at Center Cemetery. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki stated that there is a notation on that document that indicated on May 17, 2019, there were 1,010 plots in that cemetery. She added the best effort will be made to merge the information from the two documents together as a starting point to assist in the documenting of the veterans graves.

Mr. White inquired if they have any adult volunteers to work with the scouts to do the inventory. He added if his wife and Ms. Szippel could work with the scouts that would be good. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki stated she also asked her spouse Leonard Czarnecki if he will also come and walk with the scouts as well. She added maybe he will end up cleaning some of the stones if they have other volunteers to walk with the adults. Mr. White commented he went up there earlier today and he placed orange flags on the stones that he wants the scouts to focus on. He stated last week he was speaking with Jane Crandall of the Cemetery Restoration Company, and told her they were planning this, and she had stated do not give them too much work, let them do a couple stones a pair and that would be sufficient.

Mr. White noted he marked about 25 gravestones approximately. He added they do not have to do all 25 stones but if there is something that needs to be done there is still plenty of time. Mr. White stated if not completed they will be flagged for next time. Mr. White stated he does not know how old the gravestones are as he picked the smaller stones. He added here are no big stones that require the use of a ladder so they would be able to work at standing height and kneeling. He added there are also stones that need to be cleaned. Mr. White stated he focused on the Detroit Road side as they have already done the south side and have completed a lot on the west side of the cemetery. He added that the east side is modern burials over the past 50 to 75 years that are marble and granite that are in good shape and the ones they need are pretty much completed. Mr. White noted the ones up the hill on the north side that you see from Detroit Road will really make a difference when they are cleaned, and noted that particularly the front corner that Ms. Szippel, his wife and him completed as they look outstanding. Mr. White advised that they were up there again last week with one of the boy scouts, Nick, and his father Dan Duval, who cleaned six stones and a couple were large in size and those turned out very nice. He added after they apply D-2 (a cleaning solution for gravestones) they look really good, especially after a few days as he observed.

Ms. Szippel asked Mr. White about the list that was received from Ms. Morahan, if they have an estimated number of veterans that are located in the cemetery. She believes that list was of the 1,000 that Mr. White mentioned were buried there. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki stated in combining the two lists, it looks to be 33 out of 34 veterans buried in the Center Cemetery. She noted that the question they may run into is are those graves findable or have they sunk, and they can no longer find that stone. Mr. White advised that most of them are visible and as of right now the Memorial Day flags are still there and he believes the boy scouts placed the flags. He added that once he knows for sure that the boy scouts are coming that will make searching easier. He noted each one has a plaque, but he wanted to get ahold of Kerry Barvincak, Commander of the Avon VFW, to see if he can pass out commander coins to the scouts. He believes that would be pretty nice, but he does not want to ask him if the scouts are not there, and he wanted to make sure they were performing the work first. Mr. White requested if Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki could confirm with him by Friday, June 14, 2024. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki stated she would confirm and stated that Mr. Wendling indicated that he would confirm with her after Thursday's scout meeting on June 13, 2024. There were no further comments.

### **Member Comments:**

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki requested that Ms. Szippel provide an update on the Ohio Historical Marker application process in addition to any other comments she wishes to make. Ms. Szippel thanked Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki and wished to bring everyone up to speed as they know they are going to be working on the application for an Ohio Landmark Designation, just like the one that is for Norton Township, but they are doing it for the Avon Mound Cemetery. She advised she and Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki met several times regarding the application process.

Ms. Szippel commented that the application process is very detailed and long and there are sections that need to be researched and reviewed. She added they have started their first steps of creating a Statement of Significance, which is the first piece before they even start on the wording of the plaque. She added they have a very user-friendly application process. Ms. Szippel noted on top of that they also have to gather their resources and reference materials because all of that has to be noted, foot-noted, copied, documented, and scanned etc. as part of that application.

Ms. Szippel advised there are a lot of moving parts because the deadline to submit the application is May 1, 2025, so it is not something you want to jump into at the last moment. She added it is going to take them some time to get all that information gathered and she believes they are on the right path. Ms. Szippel noted a potential goal would be to have this completed by early 2025 so they can submit it to the

Ohio History Connection located in Columbus before the due date then their review process would begin. Ms. Szimpl commented that the very earliest they could possibly get a marker would be sometime in 2026 to get it installed. She advised the Ohio History Connection may award that designation to them; however, by the time it is manufactured, the Commission probably would not be able to install it until approximately Spring of 2026, if they are approved in the Ohio History Connection's preliminary review.

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki stated she wished to thank Ms. Szimpl for her comments and expand on the application process. She advised that the application contains a section where they are asked to provide sponsors. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki and Ms. Szimpl considered the sponsors to be the following: the Avon Landmarks Preservation Commission, the Avon Historical Society, the City of Avon, and the Ohio History Connection. She stated according to the guidelines, the Ohio History Connection must be listed on the list of sponsors as the final sponsor. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki noted they are hopeful that the Avon Historical Society and the City of Avon will collaborate with them as sponsors.

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki mentioned that the Committee has begun working on one of the key components of the application which is the Statement of Significance. She stated Ms. Szimpl mentioned that the guidelines indicate that the Statement of Significance is to be a response to this sentence, "The subject merits recognition of an Ohio Historical Marker because." She added they would answer and fill in the blank to that sentence and then document it.

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki advised to date the Commission has solicited and utilized resources to serve as documentation to validate the contents of the Statement of Significance of which the sources were Dr. Charles E. Herdendorf, *"Guide to the North Ridge Scenic Byway,"* dated 2010; Dr. Charles E. Herdendorf, "Origin of the "Mound" at Avon Mound Cemetery," dated March 2012, Volume 7, No. 1 issue titled, *"The Village Pioneer, Journal of the Sheffield Village Historical Society & Cultural Center."* Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki noted this source provided a lot of documentation. In addition, the third source authored by Raymond C. Vietzen, *"Ancient Man in Northern Ohio,"* dated 1941. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki stated those are the three sources that Ms. Szimpl and her have utilized to date.

Ms. Szimpl stated one of the things she believes they should note is that Dr. Herdendorf is a member of the Avon Historical Society and she is confident he would be willing to assist with any of his research because he is Professor Emeritus of Geological Sciences and several other things through Ohio State University so he is a very noted person for all of the research and believes that will very much help their cause and support their documentation and things of that nature. Ms. Szimpl added Dr. Herdendorf would be a personal resource for them as they move forward.

Mr. White advised that now they are down to two plaques from the original order in 2004. He added just in the last two months they handed out three plaques, which includes the one plaque handed out this evening. Mr. White stated he investigated what company they originally ordered the plaques from in 2004 and he contacted the company which is located in Pennsylvania. He added the City utilized this company so he figured they may as well use the same company. He advised he has a quote from the company yet does not want to make any decisions tonight. Mr. White stated he prefers Mr. Morahan to be present and he will be at next month's meeting in July in which they will continue the discussion, review the information and then submit it to the Mayor's Office for approval.

Mr. White commented that he figures they would go with the same exact bronze plaque, which includes a bell curve top and measures 10" x 17" and comes with four screws per plaque. He advised the first estimate is for \$258 after that each one is 20% off so for 10 plaques it would come out to \$2,115.60 and they can order up to 20 plaques. He stated he does not recall the exact figure they were originally estimated at; however, he believes it may have been near \$60 or possibly more than that but does not

recall for sure as it has been a long time. He stated he will hand out what information he has regarding a quote, and they can review it further until next month's meeting. Mr. White advised he will provide Mr. Morahan with a copy of the quote and discuss it further at the next Commission meeting. He commented that while it is not a big priority, ideally they should have a few more as the cost may potentially increase in the future. He added he has a copy for himself and for Mr. Morahan. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki requested Mr. White provide a copy to the Clerk so it can be included as part of the City's records.

Mr. White inquired if there were any further comments on this matter and Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki advised they can table this discussion until next month when all four members of the Landmarks Preservation Commission were present. Mr. White agreed as he believes it is a good idea and maybe they could decide whether they wish to change a plaque or purchase a different plaque. Mr. White concluded by saying this is a very simple plaque, nothing fancy and they want to be careful not to be confused with Avon Lake. Mr. White stated Avon's is from 20 years ago and they were not even in their records, but he has the box with the company name and that is what he went by. Mr. White stated he believes it may be best to stay with the same design so that they all remain the same.

**Audience Comments:**

Rick Varga, 33676 Reserve Lane, said that he is going to address again everything with Mr. Streater in regard to trimming and taking down some trees at the cemetery as there appears to be a lack of communication as far as getting things accomplished. Mr. White stated the trimming that has been done recently is an improvement to which Mr. Varga agreed. Mr. White noted that before the limbs were growing almost to the ground, and you could not see the cemetery at all from SR 83, and you could not get a vehicle past there due to the branches which measured head height, but now those branches are gone. Mr. Varga stated the City tried to remove as much as possible so they are aware. Mr. Varga added they tried to remove what they could to enhance the visibility of the City's cameras to be more functional. Mr. White agreed, and Mr. Varga noted that was the intention behind that. Mr. Varga thanked the Commission.

**Adjourn:** 7:30 p.m.

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

The vote was 3 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, July 10, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Rachel Markovtiz, Assistant Clerk of Council