

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission  
Held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building  
On Wednesday, August 12, 2020**

The Chairman, Matt Smith, called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.

**Roll Call**

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

Guest: Paula Pitasky, City of Avon Community Liaison Consultant

**Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of Wednesday, July 8, 2020**

A motion was made by Mr. Gault and seconded by Mr. White to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, July 8, 2020, and approve said minutes as published. The vote was all ayes and the Chairman declared the motion passed.

**Update on the North Ridge Scenic Byway – Paula Pitasky**

Ms. Pitasky stated that when you enter the City, there will be new “Welcome to Avon” signs at the Westlake border and the Sheffield border, and also at other areas. We are going to add the signage, “Entering the Scenic Byway”, with the Byway logo. Mr. Smith asked if Ms. Pitasky knew the timetable for that and she said she did not but as soon as she has the timing she will let him know. Mr. Smith stated that the signs were important and he thanked Ms. Pitasky for doing that. He then asked if year 1 of the 5-year plan that they did technically starts in 2021 and Ms. Pitasky said that it did. Mr. Smith asked what the major projects or goals were for year 1 and Ms. Pitasky responded that it was basically the signage and looking at what grants are available through ODOT and also working toward getting funding through the federal government. So any signage that we can get within our municipality and publicizing that should also help put the push on the federal government. That was the way that Tom Barrett at ODOT explained it to her because they were not sure what was going to be coming down from the federal government. So looking to have more Scenic Byways recertified shows that there is a need for more funding to come from the federal government to improve those Byways that exist. So we are hoping that more money becomes available from the federal level which would then become available from the State level, from ODOT, that we can apply for some grants to help beautify and improve the Detroit Road corridor.

Mr. Smith asked if the Village of Sheffield and Sheffield Township are going to do similar signage and Ms. Pitasky said that she did not know, although they did talk about it. Also, they had talked about doing a photo op with Mayor Jensen and Mayor Hunter of Sheffield at the Byway signs that we could publicize. Mr. Smith added, and he supposed someone from the Sheffield Township government would be involved with that because they are part of the Byway, where it begins at Rt. 57.

Mr. Smith asked if Ms. Pitasky could give them some ideas of other things that could be put along Detroit Road for beautification, things that they would want to get done in 2021. Ms. Pitasky said that on their plan they had stated the goal of getting information about the Byway on the City of Avon “All About Avon” website. So it was not placing things **on** the Byway, but making sure that people know that there **is** a Byway. Mr. Smith noted such as the History Walk, and French Creek Reservation where the Indian burials were done, etc. Ms. Pitasky said, right, and making sure that the book that Dr. Herdendorf did was

available online. Also we want to include the link from the ODOT website regarding the Byway. So it is just doing some technical things and making sure that people are informed about the Byway.

Mr. Gault asked if the lighting down Detroit Road would that be tied into this and Ms. Pitasky responded that she thought it could be as the grant money for the Byway program becomes available through the federal government, but she does not know. It is something that we could apply for. So that is why ODOT wanted everyone to become recertified by a certain date – to put pressure on the federal government so that when Congress went back, it would become part of the agenda.

Mr. Gault said that with cities, states, and the federal government hurting right now with the COVID pandemic, you wonder how much that affects Byways projects. Mr. Smith felt that the priority is going to be low but if you do not make the effort and apply for a grant, you will never get anything so he would think that whenever we see when we could apply we will do that. Ms. Pitasky said, right, and she will get back with ODOT to see where things stand. Mr. Gault stated that maybe there is already money that is set aside for this purpose that even though they are hurting in other areas, they cannot just take it from us and use it there. Ms. Pitasky agreed that maybe it has been earmarked.

Mr. Smith stated, so for 2021 we want to work with the “All About Avon” website and we will get the link from ODOT. He then asked if there was anything else to discuss on the North Ridge Scenic Byway and Mr. White said that he wanted to mention a building on the Byway, and that was the Old Town Hall. He said that the new roof is going on the Old Town Hall; they are now doing the soffits and new gutters and are doing a good job. Mr. Smith added that the Service Director said that when they get through with the roof they are going to take the scaffolding inside and fix the ceiling. Mr. White said that they took the volunteer firemen’s siren down from the top of the building and are giving it to the Historical Society. He is going to see about getting it sandblasted and putting it on display somewhere.

#### **Landmarks Letter of Recognition – Ralph White**

Mr. White had nothing for this month.

#### **Landmarks Nominations – Lois Shinko**

Ms. Shinko said that she did not have any nominations at this time.

#### **Comments**

Mr. White stated that at our meeting last month, a couple had come and applied for a demolition permit, which we approved. He said that he asked the couple if he could go and remove the historical plaque from the house and they said of course. But when he went there at 8:00 A.M. the next morning, the plaque was gone so he never got it back and he was disappointed in that. He would have expected it to be there, but it was not and it surprised him. He specifically said he was going to go and take it off. And it would have been nice to get an extra one because we are running low and have to order more and they are probably \$200. apiece now. He feels that the people who are going to tear a house down should give the plaque back unless they would really like to keep it. But we can ask and if they are willing to give it back he thought that is a good gesture.

Ms. Pitasky suggested changing the policy so that it says that the applicant for a demolition permit brings the plaque to the hearing and that is part of the approval process. Mr. White said that it does not happen

very often but that is a good point and it might be something that we would ask. Ms. Pitasky said that if it is that important to you then it should be part of the condition. Mr. White said that he did not really think about that as a condition because if the people want it as a souvenir, that is fine but you can ask to have it back and if you do not ask, you will not get it.

Ms. Shinko said that she has been sorting out things at her home and she has boxes of Avon history. Mr. White said that if she wanted to get rid of some of it, the Historical Society would take it. Ms. Shinko stated that she also has a lot of Avon things that she would like to put in the Cahoon House and is willing to help there and have a couple other people help as well. Mr. Smith said that Sheri Seroka is working in the house every day, taking inventory, etc. and that Ms. Shinko should go and see her. Mr. Gault asked Ms. Pitasky to have Ms. Seroka call Ms. Shinko and Ms. Pitasky said that she would do that; she would make sure that they connect. Ms. Shinko said that is good because this is very important to her.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

Mr. Smith stated that the next meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission would be held on Wednesday, September 9, 2020, at 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