

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Avon Landmarks Preservation Commission
Held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building
On Wednesday, August 13, 2025
At 7:00 p.m.**

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: Barbara Brooks, Clerk of Council; Anne Kish, Assistant Clerk of Council

Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Avon Landmarks Preservation Commission Held Wednesday, July 9, 2025

A motion was made by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Morahan to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Avon Landmarks Preservation Commission held Wednesday, July 9, 2025, and to approve said minutes as published, 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.

Landmarks Nominations

Mr. White, Ms. Szimpl, Mr. Morahan and Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki reported that there were no landmark nominations for this month.

Landmarks Letters of Recognition

Mr. White stated that he did not have any letters of recognition for this month but would have one for the next meeting. He explained that he was working on a letter for the property at 2542-2536 Stoney Ridge Road, owned by Anne Marie Shinko Brown of Avon Heritage Real Estate LLC. Mr. White noted that she had done an outstanding job restoring and fixing up the buildings, and the letter would be completed for the September meeting. It was further detailed in the meeting that this recognition was intended for the significant efforts put forth by Ms. Brown. During the discussion, there was a mutual acknowledgment of the impact of her work not only on the property itself but also on the cultural and historical significance of the area.

Avon Center Cemetery

Ohio Historical Marker Application

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki reported on the status of the Ohio Historical Marker application. She explained that the commission's last communication from the Ohio History Connection was an email dated May 14, 2025, from Laura Russell, the Historical Markers program manager. Ms. Russell had confirmed receipt of the application and stated that all applicants would be notified by email or postal mail by mid-August. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki noted that the Commission had not yet received any update on their application.

Planter

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki informed the Commission that the Mayor did not support adding plant materials to the planter at the top of the hill at the cemetery at this time. She explained that the

Mayor cited two reasons for this decision: a safety concern about potentially distracting drivers from keeping their eyes on the road, and the ongoing construction project at the intersection. The Chair clarified that this did not mean the Mayor would not support planting in the future, but rather that he did not support it at this time for these specific reasons.

Wreaths Across America

Ms. Szimpl provided an overview of the Wreaths Across America program, reminding the Commission that Robbie Brown from the Nathan Perry Chapter of the DAR had attended their meeting in December 2024. Ms. Szimpl and Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki had recently met with Ms. Brown regarding the upcoming Wreaths Across America event scheduled for December 13, 2025.

Ms. Szimpl explained that Wreaths Across America is a non-profit organization that receives no government funding and works with thousands of volunteers who organize local ceremonies, raise funds, and sponsor wreaths. The organization conducts an annual pilgrimage from Columbia Falls, Maine to Arlington National Cemetery in Washington DC, which has become known as the world's largest veterans parade. Simultaneous wreath-laying ceremonies take place at over 4,600 locations across the country, including Rest Haven Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Avon.

She noted that the organization helps other nonprofits and civic groups raise funds for their community needs and has given back more than \$20 million to local groups since 2007. The cost to sponsor a wreath is \$17, with \$5 of that amount going to local Chapters to donate back to the community. For each sponsored wreath, one is placed at a local cemetery of choice and another at Arlington National Cemetery.

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki then provided additional details about the local impact of the program. She explained that the Nathan Perry Chapter has been serving Lorain County for over 107 years since its founding in 1918, with a mission to promote historic preservation, education, patriotism, and honor patriots who have shaped the country.

She noted that the Chapter began participating in Wreaths Across America six years ago with just two members, and today the program has grown to include not only their 90 Chapter members but also community organizations such as Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Civil Air Patrol, Police Departments, local Veterans posts, and residents of all ages.

In the four years since starting the program at RestHaven Memory Gardens in Avon, they have placed 3,624 wreaths on Veterans' graves. The effort has expanded to include Elmwood Cemetery in Lorain and Fields Cemetery in North Ridgeville. With the support of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, they hope to reach all seven cemeteries in Avon, with Avon Center Cemetery to be added this year.

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki reported that approximately 700 wreaths are laid at RestHaven Memory Gardens each year, with participation from the Avon Lake American Legion Post 211 riders and the Police Department, who escort the Wreaths Across America truck. The ceremony includes special recognition of Avon's fallen hero, Patrolman James A. Kerstetter.

The Nathan Perry Chapter has committed eight service branch wreaths to the Avon Center Cemetery, but there was not space available for an article in the upcoming All Around Avon City News Letter. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki stated she would reach out to the Avon Senior Center and VFW post to help spread the word about how residents can participate. She added that posters, order forms, and delivery information would be provided by the Nathan Perry Chapter in early

September, with sponsorship forms and pickup information to be shared at the September 10 meeting.

Mr. White asked about the process for adding other cemeteries in Avon to the program. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki explained that all wreaths would be delivered to RestHaven Memory Gardens, and citizens or groups who sponsor wreaths would pick them up there and take them to Veterans' graves of their choice. She noted that Commission members and Historical Society members who choose to participate would be able to lay wreaths at Avon Center Cemetery and speak the names of the Veterans aloud. The cemetery would also receive nine wreaths on stands to be displayed at the corner by the memorial, each commemorating a branch of service.

Reports and Comments

Members:

Mr. Morahan had no comments.

Ms. Szimpl had no comments.

Mr. White reported that the last round of repairs and restoration at the cemetery was completed the previous day, with workers expected to return the following day to remove boards and supports for the new concrete repairs. He anticipated a final report would be available in approximately two weeks.

Mr. White also reported that he had assisted with the installation of a plaque on Avon Dairy Treat. He explained that when the owner called to accept his offer of help, he and a friend brought tools and a ladder to the site. Mr. White had gone up first to identify the best placement for the plaque and suggested a location that the owner approved. The plaque was installed on the front of the building, below the roof line and above the windows, where it would be visible from the street while being protected by the eaves from rain and snow.

The Chair had no comments.

Audience:

There were no audience comments.

Adjourn: 7:18 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"; Mr. Morahan; 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 will be held on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, in the Council Chambers of Avon City Hall at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Anne Kish, Assistant Clerk of Council

PASSED: _____

SIGNED BY: _____
Cynthia Murnyack-Czarnecki, Chair

ATTEST:

Anne Kish, Assistant Clerk of Council