

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission
Held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building
On Wednesday, October 14, 2020**

The Chairman, Matt Smith, called the meeting to order at 7:03 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, September 9, 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, September 9, 2020, 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 said that he had nothing this month.

Landmarks Nominations – Lois Shinko

Ms. Shinko stated that she had nothing.

Mr. White said that he had one that he would like to nominate. The address is 35410 Detroit Road and it is right across from Stratford Village. It is a brick farmhouse and was actually a part of Avenbury but then it was parceled off. Mr. White said that he talked to the owner and he is excited about the house. He was asking Mr. White about some of the rare sandstone that was in the basement. Mr. White said he thinks that the owner would be interested in getting the house on the list of landmarks so Mr. White will meet with him and give him an application and some photos. It will be up to him after that. Mr. Smith added that the owner had called him asking if he had photos and Mr. Smith gave him Mr. White's number. The fact that he is interested is very nice and that house is in beautiful condition.

Comments

Ms. Pitasky stated that she had a great conversation today with Tom Barrett of ODOT and talked to him about funding that could be available to us for the Byway project. We are probably two to three years out for that according to Mr. Barrett. The first step has happened: Congress has reinstated the national Byway project so we have made it one step. What Mr. Barrett did tell her was that ODOT will provide funding for Byway signage to municipalities like Avon that have a Byway and that just happened today. Ms. Pitasky said, so she will talk to the Mayor and the Service Director and let them know that ODOT will cover the cost of anything that we are wanting that has that ODOT symbol and Byway symbol.

Ms. Pitasky stated that she told Mr. Barrett that our long-term goal was to use the fund to help renovate the area of the French Creek District and show that this is a really special area. She said she threw some ideas at him of things we have put in our plan and he said, ideally, they would love to be able to say for each Byway, this is how much you get per mile of your Byway. So that is what ODOT is working on but

they are not at that point yet. They have to wait until they make it through all the steps with Congress. They are hopeful that within the next two to three years, we should see some money. So we will keep working on our plans but the first step is the signage.

Ms. Shinko brought a magazine to the meeting that showed pictures of historic houses decorated for Christmas which she thought we could use as a reference for decorating the Cahoon House. Ms. Pitasky offered to give the magazine to Sheri Seroka and then when Ms. Seroka was done with it, she could return it to Ms. Shinko at her store. Ms. Shinko said that would be fine.

Ms. Shinko had an idea for "Christmas at the Bridge", decorating the bridge by Avon Isle with Christmas greens, etc. Ms. Pitasky said that fits right in with what we are doing this year. We are doing "Light up Avon" instead of the Tree Lighting Festival. We cannot do the tree lighting because of COVID, so the French Creek Foundation, in partnership with the City of Avon and the schools, is encouraging businesses to light up Avon by lighting their businesses and the areas around them. So that is a great idea that Ms. Shinko has and that is exactly what we want people to do. Just imagine how bright and cheerful Avon is going to be because hopefully much of this is within the French Creek Foundation District.

Mr. Gault stated that he just wanted to thank Mr. Smith's father, Taylor Jack Smith, for all the hard work he did. Mr. Gault said that when he first joined the Landmarks Preservation Commission, Mr. Smith was a huge part of all that went on and the Commission would not be what it is and the City of Avon would not be what it is without him. He was an amazing man and we appreciate all that he has done.

Date of Next Meeting

Mr. Smith stated that the next meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission would be held on Wednesday, November 11, 2020, at Avon City Hall at 7:00 P.M.

Adjourn

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