

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission
Held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building
On Wednesday, December 13, 2023**

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

Roll Call

Members:

Present –Clint Gault, David Morahan, Vice-Chair Ralph White; Chair Cynthia Murnyack-Czarnecki

Correspondence/Reports

Mr. White stated that the old Luke’s Bar was demolished and also the house on Church Street, which he thought was the old Miller House. He said that he heard there was a demolition on Kinzel Road as well but he did not think it was a landmark house; it was built in 1951. He said that he just wanted to make a note of that.

Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Avon Landmarks Preservation Commission Held Wednesday, November 8, 2023

A motion was made by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Gault to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Avon Landmarks Preservation Commission held Wednesday, November 8, 2023, and approve said minutes as published. The vote was all ayes and the Chair declared the motion passed.

Update on Center Cemetery Restorations – Ralph White

Mr. White stated that, with the wintertime, nothing has been going on at the Cemetery but he has been up there. Everything that we did cleaning-wise looks really good. The D-2 cleaner that was used on the gravestones is a time release cleaner and as time goes by they get cleaner and today he went through there and was pretty surprised. A lot of the stones are bright and white and look so nice. The GAR stars all have been placed although he does not really like the way they are mounted on the posts. The wind whips the flags that are on there and then the star spins so they are kind of out of whack. We are working on something to help with that.

Landmarks Nominations – Ralph White

Mr. White stated that he did not have any nominations.

Landmarks Letters of Recognition – Ralph White

Mr. White said that he has a house that he would like to write a letter for although it would not be a Letter of Recognition because we have already done a Letter of Recognition for this house. The house has been sold and the new owners are rebuilding the porch and are doing a fine job. He showed a historical photo of the house and noted that it was Dr. Pipe’s house at 37399 Detroit Road. He said he would like to come up with a letter thanking the new owners for restoring the porch. He was worried about it because the roof of the porch was sagging and he thought it was falling off. The floor of the porch was kind of fallen in and they tore it all up and redid it and it really looks nice. And they kept it true to the original

constructions which was good too. So maybe we could write a letter by next month. He said he does not know if the old homeowner gave the new owners the Letter of Recognition or the historical photo that Mr. White had delivered to him in person at the time. Mr. White thought that we might copy the photo and mail it with the letter.

Member Comments

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki said that, looking forward to 2024 and after the collaboration that has been done to restore the Center Cemetery, she would like to offer that the Landmarks Preservation Commission participate in the 2024 "Wreaths Across America", which is a non-profit organization started in 2007 by Morrill Worcester and his family, who were wreath makers in Maine, and the program has grown immensely since then. The mission of "Wreaths Across America" is to remember the fallen, honor those who serve, and teach the next generation the value of freedom by placing live balsam wreaths adorned with red bows on each veteran's grave on "National Wreaths Across America Day" which in 2024 will be Saturday, December 14th. She has approached the Mayor and he is very supportive of our participating in this program.

Mr. White asked if it would cost us anything and Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki said that there is a cost associated with the purchasing of each wreath, which are live balsam wreaths. They are \$17.00 each and there is no tax and there are creative ways to fund the purchasing of the wreaths in collaboration with our community partners, which we will discuss in the next several months. Ceremonies such as saying the Pledge of Allegiance, playing the National Anthem, and/or singing the National Anthem, a military color guard, honor guard, or a military salute are encouraged but at the minimum, with the placement of each wreath on each veteran's grave, the veteran's name is to be said aloud so that that veteran is remembered. The ceremony is to start at 12:00 noon to correspond with the ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. We will have to take an inventory and list how many veterans we have in our Cemetery before we place this order.

Mr. White asked if there was a minimum amount of wreaths that could be ordered and Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki answered, no, there is not a minimum. She then said that the very first criteria for becoming involved is the permission of the Cemetery overseer, which is the City and we have the City's permission to do this. Mr. White asked when we had to have the inventory of names done and Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki said that the cutoff date to place the order for a particular year is the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. Mr. White said, so this would be for next year and Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki said, yes. Mr. White noted, so we can do it in the spring and Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki said, yes, and she added that the wreaths are delivered in the two weeks prior to "Wreaths Across America" day. Mr. White asked if this is for any American war? Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki said, yes, we are eligible to lay a wreath for any American war veteran who is buried in our Cemetery.

Mr. White said that he was wondering if the VFW would want to include Resthaven Cemetery. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki said that Resthaven is another situation. She stated that the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution has participated in this program at Resthaven. Mayor Jensen asked if we would have our delivery combined with theirs but when she spoke with the liaison for "Wreaths Across America" who is in charge of Ohio, that person did not believe that that the Daughters of the American Revolution were going to participate in 2024. She will contact the Daughters of the American Revolution and ask if they are participating and if they are, ask if we can combine delivery. The idea that we had is to have them deliver to the Service Dept. if we cannot combine with Resthaven. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki noted that this is a big project at Resthaven because they have several hundred veterans there.

Mr. White stated that it would probably be better for us and our Commission just to focus on our Mound Cemetery. He said that he would be comfortable with that and Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki said that she would be also.

It was agreed by all the members of the Landmarks Preservation Commission that the Commission should participate in “Wreaths Across America”.

Audience Comments

Rick Varga, 33676 Reserve Way, Avon, stated that he is the City Arborist and has been working with the Sweat Brothers on the tree removal at the Mound Cemetery. He has submitted the estimates for this work to the City and now it is in the City’s hands to appropriate the funds to take the trees down. He thinks that it will be in next year’s budget to start this project. Mr. White said, so probably nothing will happen this winter and Mr. Varga said, no. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki thanked Mr. Varga for his efforts and they appreciate him keeping them updated. Mr. White stated that we might have to redo the identifying ribbons on the trees as they might fade and you would not be able to tell one from the other and Mr. Varga agreed.

Mary Berges, 3471 Mass Dr., Avon, said that she read about other communities having the “Wreaths Across America” ceremony in the fall and thinks it is great that the Landmarks Preservation Commission is taking that up. She is looking forward to seeing what they do and doing anything she can to help out. She thinks it is wonderful. Ms. Berges said that she also wanted to acknowledge that this is Clint Gault’s last meeting on the Landmarks Preservation Commission. She remembers when he first started serving as a member, representing the French Creek Foundation, at that time the French Creek Development Association. She knows that he has been great serving and it has been a lot of years. Ms. Berges thanked Mr. Gault for being on the Commission. Mr. Gault said thank you very much; it has been an honor to serve.

Matt Smith, 4455 Jaycox, Avon, also thanked Mr. Gault for all he has done.

Date of Next Meeting

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki stated that the next Regular Meeting of the Avon Landmarks Preservation Commission will be held on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, in the Council Chambers of 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 Chair declared the motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Gail Hayden, Assistant Clerk of Council