

**Washtenaw County Historic District Commission
Meeting Minutes**

DATE:	Thursday, November 4, 2021
TIME:	5:30 pm-7:00 p.m.
PLACE:	Virtual Zoom Meeting

Call to Order

Chair Ralph called the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission meeting to order at 5:33 PM.

Roll Call

- **Commissioners present:** Katie Remensnyder attending from Ypsilanti Township, Washtenaw County, MI; Alice Ralph attending from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, MI; Patti Smith attending from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, MI; Alec Jerome attending from Scio Township, Washtenaw County, MI; Olivia Davidson attending from Ypsilanti Township, Washtenaw County, MI; Blake Swihart attending from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, MI; James Mann attending from Ypsilanti Township, Washtenaw County, MI
- **Commissioners absent:** Peter Kelley
- **Staff:** Melinda Schmidt

Approval of the Agenda of the Current Meeting:

Chair Ralph motioned to approve the agenda of November 4, 2021 Historic District Commission meeting. Vice Chair Jerome seconded the motion. The agenda was unanimously approved.

Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting: October 7, 2021:

Chair Ralph motioned to approve the October 7, 2021 meeting minutes with a friendly amendment to the fourth paragraph on the first page under the Staff Report. Commissioner Davidson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Business and Reports: Staff Report

Staff updated the Commission on the following items:

- **Wilde-Frey farmstead:** The Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners appointed a Study Committee to evaluate the Wilde-Frey Farm. As soon as Scio Township has hired a consultant help complete the survey and study committee reports, the study committee will start the survey process.
- **Thornoaks:** The applicants for a new roof at 4071 Thornoaks Drive have withdrawn the application. They are interviewing roofing companies familiar with flat roofs.
- **Certified Local Government Program:**
 - **Milan Survey Community Partnership program:** Washtenaw County was chosen to partner with SHPO to complete a survey of downtown Milan as part of an educational initiative. This program will involve SHPO staff, Washtenaw County staff, and the Milan Local Historic Study Committee. Commissioners are welcome to attend. The survey will take place mid-November.
 - **CLG Application for Geothermal Installation at Gordon Hall:** Washtenaw County has submitted a 2022 CLG grant application with Dexter Area Historical Society to cover a portion of the cost to install a geothermal system at Gordon Hall.
- **2022 Meetings:**
 - In-person meetings will recommence in January 2022 because the emergency order allowing for remote meetings will expire in December 2021. Staff and commissioner discussed the best way to safely meet in person. Commissioners agreed maintaining a six-foot distance and requiring masks would be necessary. Commissioner asked if the ventilation systems have been upgraded to maximize fresh air. The conference room at OCED is not big enough to ensure social distance. The commission asked staff to find a more suitable room. Staff will reach out to each commissioner with more details about a 2022 meeting location and to discuss the commissioner's comfort level with in-person meetings.

- Calendar : The HDC asked staff to change the room for the HDCC meeting location to a bigger space. Commissioner Jerome motioned to adopt the calendar as presented with the requested revision. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Updates: Commissioner Mann reported that the lantern tours are going well, and movie nights at Ypsilanti Historical Society will continue on Friday nights. Commissioner McKay reported that the Detroit Observatory addition is complete. In the future, the HDC could take a tour.

Adjournment: Chair Ralph motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:03 pm. Commissioner Davidson seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

The next HDC meeting is scheduled for January 6, 2022. Location TBA
