



WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

www.washtenaw.org/preservation

MEETING AGENDA

DATE: Thursday, September 1, 2022

TIME: 5:30 pm – 7:00pm

PLACE: Superior Room, Learning Resource Center, 4135 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Call to Order– Chair

Roll Call – Secretary

Approval of the Agenda of the Current Meeting – Chair

Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting: July 7, 2022– Chair

Citizen Participation and Commissioner follow-up – Chair

Business and Staff Reports

Staff report:

- Certified Local Government Program
 - Introduce SHPO staff
- Local Historic District Updates
 - 2022 LHD Survey
 - Esek Pray House
 - Thornoaks
 - Conant Farm
 - Wild-Frey Farm

Treasurer Report

Items for Discussion

- Commissioner Updates

Adjournment

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 6, 2022, Washtenaw County Learning Resource Center, Superior Room, 4135 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Attachments:

Minutes of the July 7, 2022 meeting

Staff Report

Washtenaw County Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes

DATE:	Thursday, July 7, 2022
TIME:	5:30 pm-7:00pm
PLACE	Detroit Observatory, 1398 E Ann St, Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Call to Order

- Vice Chair Jerome called the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission meeting to order at 5:39 PM
- Secretary McKay conducted roll call:
 - **Commissioners present:** Kim Clarke, Olivia Davidson, James Mann, Alec Jerome, Alice Ralph, Aprille McKay
 - **Commissioners absent with notice:** Peter Kelley, Katie Remensnyder
 - **Staff present:** Melinda Schmidt

Approval of the Agenda of the Current Meeting:

Vice Chair Jerome motioned to approve the agenda of July 7, 2022 Historic District Commission meeting. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. The agenda was unanimously approved.

Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting: May 5, 2022

Vice Chair Jerome motioned to approve the May 5, 2022 meeting minutes. Commissioner Clarke seconded the motion, and suggested a friendly amendment to the minutes, striking a second mention of Commissioner Kelley in roll call. With no objections to the friendly amendment, commissioners voted and the motion passed unanimously.

Business and Staff Reports:

Wilde-Frey Farm: Staff asked Vice Chair Jerome for an update on Scio Township. Jerome stated hiring a consultant to complete the study committee report is on the agenda for the upcoming Township meeting. As soon as the consultant is hired, staff will contact those who agreed to serve on the study committee.

Thornocks: Staff updated commissioners on the appeal process regarding the February 10, 2022 HDC decision. The State Historic Preservation Review Board will consider the matter at their September meeting.

2022 Audit: Staff has begun site visits to local historic districts. As part of this process, staff initiated renewing the contract with the Navy for the USS Washtenaw Artifacts, housed at 200 N. Main. The artifacts in the display are a mix of those on loan from the Navy and those donated by local veterans.

State Historic Preservation Tax Credit: The state tax credit was implemented mid-June. There is a limited amount of funds, and applications are considered as first come first serve. At this point, all funds have been allocated for 2022, and the application portal will open again next year.

Certified Local Government Program: SHPO staff will attend the September 1 HDC meeting as part of routine CLG review process. HDC staff will meet with SHPO staff before the HDC meeting, commissioners are welcome to attend.

Commissioner Project Ideas and Updates:

Commissioner Mann discussed his upcoming book, *Murder and Mayhem in Washtenaw County*, which will be released October 3. Lantern Tours at Highland Cemetery will take place the last three weekends in October. Commissioner Clarke updated the commission on the new sculpture by John Pappas commemorating African American Civil War veterans buried in Highland Cemetery. The sculpture was unveiled mid-June.

Adjournment: Commissioner Clarke motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Davidson seconded the motion. It passed unanimously and the meeting closed at 6:15.

The next HDC meeting is scheduled for <i>Thursday, August 4, 2022- Washtenaw County Learning Resource Center, Superior Room, 4135 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48108</i>
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Washtenaw County Historic District Commission Staff Report September 1, 2022

Certified Local Government Program

- Please welcome Alan Higgins, Certified Local Government Coordinator at the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office, to the September HDC meeting. Mr. Higgins has been with the Michigan SHPO for three years, and worked closely with the Washtenaw County Preservation Program on a CLG Grant in Northfield Township and Community Partnership project in Milan. Mr. Higgins is attending as part of the routine CLG review process. HDC staff will meet with Mr. Higgins before the HDC meeting, commissioners are welcome to attend the 4:30 meeting.

Local Historic Districts

- **2022 Local Historic District Survey:** Staff concluded 2022 visits, with the exception of Thornoaks; that visit will take place late fall, after the leaves are off the trees. Most Local Historic District properties are in good condition. Popkins School has some vandalism and a broken window. Staff has notified the property owner and will follow up in a few weeks.
- **Esek Pray House:** The new property owners at the Esek Pray House have reached out to staff regarding HDC guidance for solar panels and the possibility of rebuilding one of the chimneys.
- **Thornoaks:**
 - Addition: A Thornoaks property owner plans on constructing a rear, one-story addition and have asked the HDC for preliminary input on their plans. Staff will present preliminary plans during the meeting, and collect feedback to pass on to the architect.
 - The State Historic Preservation Review Board will consider the appeal of the February 10, 2022 HDC decision regarding replacement siding at 4071 Thornoaks at their September 23 meeting.
- **Conant Farm:** Conant Farm property owners have asked the HDC to consider the possibility of digging a new basement for the Conant House directly in front of the current location. The house has extensive water damage and need a new basement. Moving the house forward would allow the house to roll on the new foundation and put the house in a better location to avoid the water. The house was moved to the current location from Willow Run. The property owners are also considering moving the chimney on the Bower House to the south elevation, in order to minimize openings on the roof. The roof needs to be replaced soon, because it sustained damage from a large branch that fell during the winter. They would like HDC feedback on these projects.
- **Wild-Frey Farm:** Scio Township has formalized their contract with consultant Melissa Milton-Pung to complete the Study Committee Report for the Wild-Frey Farm. The Wild-Frey Farm Study Committee will meet late August to kick-off the project.

Commissioner Project Ideas and Updates:

Please come prepared with any project ideas you would like to share with the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Schmidt, Historic Preservation Specialist, Office of Community & Economic Development
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