

**Washtenaw County Historic District Commission
Meeting Minutes**

DATE:	Thursday, January 8, 2026
TIME:	5:30 pm-7:00pm
PLACE	Eastern County Government Center Office of Community & Economic Development- 2 nd floor 415 W. Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti, MI

Call to Order

- Chair Ralph called the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission meeting to order at 5:34 PM

Roll Call

- Secretary Clarke conducted roll call:
 - **Commissioners present:** Clarke, Stevenson, Ralph, Rapley, Jerome
 - **Commissioners absent with notice:** Covington, Remensnyder, Oehrli,
 - **Staff present:** Joe Frost
 - **Members of the public:** Ina Hanel-Gerdenich, Arcadio Ramirez, Laura Damschroder, Bill Ruddock

Approval of the Agenda of the Current Meeting:

Chair Ralph asked if there were any corrections to the agenda. There were none. Chair Ralph moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Stevenson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting: November 6, 2025:

Chair Ralph asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. There were none. Chair Ralph moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Stevenson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Participation: Laura Damschroder of Chelsea, Michigan shared with the commission the significance of Wild Goose Lake. In the 1920s, Black investors bought acreage to develop property to sell lots to the working Black community. There may be potential for a local historic district. Will follow up with HDC Staff.

Commissioner follow-up to citizen participation: none

Treasurer Report: none

Business:

- a. Certificate of Appropriateness Request – 4025 E. Huron Lake Drive – Thornoaks Historic District

Chair Ralph moved that the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for all work described and depicted by the work review application for Case HDC 2026-001 submitted by the applicant. The applicant has demonstrated the work will comply with the U.S. Secretary of

the Interior Standards, specifically standard #9. Commissioner Jerome seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Certificate of Appropriateness Request – 4101 Thornoaks Drive – Thornoaks Historic District

Commissioner Jerome moved that the Historic District Commission postpone review of Case HDC 2026-002 submitted by the applicant until the next regular meeting schedule for March 5, 2026, and to direct staff to conduct site visit and report back to the commission regarding vertical siding. Commissioner Clarke seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Application for Historic Designation Consideration – 4860 Textile Road – Lodi Township

Commissioner Jerome moved to adopt the resolution to recommend a study committee for the purposes of studying 4860 Textile Road, Lodi Township for consideration of local historic designation. Chair Ralph seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

d. 2026 Historic District Commission Workplan

Staff shared the draft strategic plan developed by former staff member Kat Slocum. Commission members plan to review and discuss at a later meeting.

e. Nomination and Election of HDC Officers:

Commissioner Jerome moved to nominate and elect the current roster of officers (Ralph as Chair, Jerome as Vice Chair, Clark as Secretary, Rapley as Treasurer). Commissioner Clarke seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

- a. Historic Marker Replacement – Staff provided an update. Staff is collecting additional estimates and working with Heritage Tourism Committee on recommendations. Immediate priorities seem to be Gordon Hall and Groves Farm.
- b. Request for Historic District Designation Consideration – 1575 Earhart – Ann Arbor Township – Staff provided an update. Following discussion at our November meeting, staff shared recommendations based on the property owner's timeline. Owner does not wish to move forward with designation at this time.

Subcommittee Updates:

- A. Heritage Tourism – committee plans to meet soon, will work staff to determined next steps for historic marker replacements.
- B. Designation/Resource Support – no report
- C. Woodlawn Cemetery Project – no report
- D. Woodlawn Cemetery Study Committee – no report

Staff Report

Staff Joe Frost updated the Commission on the following items:

- Local Historic Districts Updates
- Programming and Promotional Updates

- Historic Markers Updates
- CLG Updates
- Grant Updates
- Legislation Updates
- Washtenaw County Updates

Adjournment:

The next HDC meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. at Eastern County Government Center Office of Community & Economic Development 2nd floor 415 W. Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti, MI