



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
220 NORTH MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 8645
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 48107-8645
(734)996-3055
FAX (734)994-2592

TO: Christina Montague, Chair
Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners

THROUGH: Robert E. Guenzel
County Administrator

FROM: Mark J. McFadden, Director
Washtenaw County Metropolitan Planning Commission

DATE: November 1, 2000

SUBJECT: Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of a Historic District Study Committee
to evaluate the Davis/Ford House for Historic District status

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED

It is requested that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners appoint individuals recommended by the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission to a Study Committee to evaluate the Davis/Ford House for the purpose of nominating the property for Historic District status.

BACKGROUND

The Davis/Ford House is located at 3555 West Delhi in Scio Township. It consists of a hens-and-chicks coursed cobblestone Greek Revival house, a barn and a stone smokehouse. The house has at least two significant owners, Abram Davis and Henry Ford. Davis was an original miller of Delhi Mills, while Ford and his wife, Clara, visited the farm during peach blossom season, touring up and down the rows of trees in a chauffeur driven open Lincoln. The current owners, Kathleen Timberlake and John Ahlberg, wish to have the property designated both to qualify for tax credits under PA 535 of 1998, and to protect their farmstead for future generations. If approved, the Davis/Ford House will be the first historic district in Scio Township.

DISCUSSION

The current owners of the property approached Scio Township to have the property listed as a historic district. Scio Township has asked the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, through the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission, to conduct this work on their behalf.

Under the Michigan Historic Districts Act (P.A. 169 of 1970, as amended in 1992), a historic district study committee must be established to evaluate the property and determine if it meets criteria to be included in a historic district. Also under P.A. 169, the County Board of Commissioners has the authority to establish such a committee.

The Washtenaw County Historic District Commission recommends that the following individuals be appointed to the Davis/Ford House Historic District Study Committee: John Ahlberg, Ina Hanel, Marnie Paulus, Louisa Pieper, Grace Shackman, Pat Thompson, Kathleen Timberlake and Susan C. Wineberg.

IMPACT ON HUMAN RESOURCES

None

IMPACT ON THE BUDGET

None

IMPACT ON INDIRECT COSTS

None

IMPACT ON OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS OR OUTSIDE AGENCIES

None

CONFORMITY TO COUNTY POLICIES

This request conforms with County Policy

ATTACHMENTS

None

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF A HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE AS RECOMMENDED BY THE WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF EVALUATING THE DAVIS/FORD HOUSE PROPERTY FOR HISTORIC DISTRICT STATUS.

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 15, 2000

WHEREAS, the property located at 3555 West Delhi (Davis/Ford House) in Scio Township has potential to be nominated as a historic district; and

WHEREAS, Scio Township has asked the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners via the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission to have the property listed as a historic district; and

WHEREAS, under Michigan's Historic Districts Act (P.A. 169 of 1970, as amended in 1992), a historic district study committee must be established to evaluate the property and determine if it meets criteria to be included in a historic district; and

WHEREAS, under P.A. 169, the County Board of Commissioners has the authority to establish such a historic district committee; and

WHEREAS, as dictated by law, the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission is presenting a list of nominees to serve on this historic District Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission recommends that the following individuals be appointed to the Davis/Ford House Historic District Study Committee: John Ahlberg, Ina Hanel, Marnie Paulu, Lousia Pieper, Grace Shackman, Pat Thompson, Kathleen Timberlake and Susan C. Wienberg;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby appoints individuals to the Davis/Ford House Historic District Study Committee, **as follows:**

John Ahlberg
Ina Hanel
Marnie Paulu
Lousia Pieper
Grace Shackman
Pat Thompson
Kathleen Timberlake
Susan C. Wienberg;