

Washtenaw County Historic District Commission
STAFF REPORT
December 2007

1) Historic District Designation Attachment to Deeds

Staff has provided the draft document for review by County Clerk Lawrence Kestenbaum and Corporation Council Curtis Hedger, and is awaiting responses. *Please see the final affidavit document included in the December Board Packet.*

2) Gordon Hall State Historical Marker Application

Staff responded to a letter received a letter from the State Historic Preservation Office, dated October 10, requesting a final decision from the WCHDC regarding the Gordon Hall State Historical Marker Application. The two choices outlined by the State were

- a) Acceptance of the SHPO's text and submission of the remaining \$3,100 balance by December 1, or
- b) Closure of the application file and forfeit of any funds previously submitted.

A final decision from the WCHDC was necessary. Staff responded with the WCHDC's decision, which was to support the Dexter Area Historical Society and Museum's decision to refuse approval of the SHPO's text. *Please see a copy of the letter of response to the SHPO, included in the December Board Packet.*

3) Indian Trails/Hinsdale Map Follow-up

Follow-up on Jasper Pennington's suggestion to erect historic markers related to Native American trails and sites depicted on the c.1927 W. B. Hinsdale Map. Commissioners Snyder and Kelley have agreed to conduct some investigation regarding local partners and other opportunities for this project. Staff met with Tom Freeman, Lynn Berni, and Kira Macyda of Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation again on November 13, and presented the preliminary maps of Native American Trails. Parks & Rec remains very interested in pursuing this partnership for a historic marker program in Washtenaw County parks. Due to other pressing projects, Freeman and his staff have requested an opportunity to present draft marker text to the WCHDC at the February 14 meeting.

4) Rawsonville School

Staff and Commissioner Gray continue to conduct research on this c.1865 one-room school, which is located in Ypsilanti Township and owned by YUCA.

5) Local Historic District Study Committees

At the present time, WCHDC has two unresolved Local Historic District Study Committees: Conant Farm and the Othneil Gooding House. Staff desires to bring these two committees to a close by early 2008, either through designation or dissolution, in order to focus on other local designations.

- The Conant Farm Study Committee Report is in the review stages of completion, with assistance from staff.
- Commissioner Snyder has initiated the process of requesting dissolution of the Othneil Gooding House Study Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Washtenaw County Department of Planning and Environment