

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Minutes of Monthly Meeting

<p>DATE: April 1, 2004 TIME: 4:30 p.m. PLACE: 705 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan Zeeb Road Room 2010</p>

1. Call to Order: Commissioner Don Riddering called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.
2. Roll Call: Don Riddering called the roll. Commissioners Pat Kelly, Tom Dodd, Mark Higbee, Don Riddering, Jasper Pennington and Alice Ralph were present constituting a quorum. Staff members Marnie Paulus and Anne Kreykes were also present. Pat Majher was absent. Nancy Snyder and Jean King arrived at 4:40 and 4:48 respectively.
3. Approval of Minutes of March 2004 Meeting: **On a motion by Higbee, seconded by Pennington, the minutes were approved.**
4. Approval of Agenda: **On a motion by Kelly, seconded by Higbee, the agenda was approved.**
5. Introduction of Guests: None
6. Application Reviews: None
7. Business:
Workshop: Riddering began a discussion about the WCHDC *Bridges of Washtenaw County* workshop held March 28, 2004. Riddering commented on the positive attitude of the participants and guests and Kelly remarked that it is good to get people together to discuss ideas and Pennington added that it helped to diffuse animosity. Ralph remarked that it is the WCHDCs responsibility to take an active role in bringing people together like this. Kelly stated again that the WCRC is doing their job and they should not be looked upon negatively. There was discussion on Roy Townsend's remark that it is more expensive to rehabilitate than replace bridges which may not be an accurate statement. Pennington inquired as to whether or not the public knows about these bridge projects and Kelly said that the townships are informed of these discussions ahead of time. Kelly remarked that her township needs a visioning session and this may be a good idea for other townships also. Kelly discussed a seminar she had just attended and the

idea of incorporating the Natural Rivers Act, ISTEA grant funds, rails to trails, etcetera as alternative and creative ways to save bridges and the heritage of Washtenaw County. Discussion about a follow up bridge workshop in October, before elections take place, ensued and Higbee suggested a birthday celebration or event during a holiday, such as, Memorial Day or Independence Day. This would increase awareness of the county's historic bridges.

HDC Awards: From the list of eight nominations, the WCHDC Awards Committee presented three that met the criteria for the award.

Sharon Mills, Don Limpert, and John Burg Farm were chosen as the three projects to receive awards, with the other nominations receiving an honorable mention for their projects. The awards will be presented May 5 at the WCBOC meeting in celebration of Historic Preservation Week. The Historic District Commissioners discussed improving the criteria guidelines to include, who, what, when, where, and why so the nominations address the criteria and timetable specifically. Another idea presented was to offer nominees a chance to resubmit nominations and provide more detail about the project in future Award cycles. **On a motion by Riddering, seconded by King, there was a motion to approve Sharon Mills, Don Limpert, and Burg farm as the WCHDC preservation award winners. The motion carried. On a motion by Riddering, seconded by King, there was a motion to approve the remaining five nominees for a letter of honorable mention. The motion carried.**

Publicity: King stated that the Michigan Historical Society should have a box in their newsletter for information about the WCHDC. She later corrected the organization's name to the Washtenaw County Historical Society. King will follow up on her idea.

8. Reports:

Communications: None

Staff Report:

- The WCHDC and Washtenaw County Department of Planning and Environment are the recipients of the MHPN award for **HistWeb Phase I**. The ceremony will be at Meadow Brook Hall, April 23, 2004 and all are welcome to attend. If WCHDC members are attending the April 24 workshop as part of the MHPN conference, Paulus asked that the amount be put on the per diem sheet for reimbursement.
- The NAPC conference has changed the dates to July 15 – 18, 2004 and will be held in Indianapolis.

- MBPN Conference in Lansing March 12-13 was informative, the Barn Again exhibit educational, and the general presentations helpful.
- Paulus thanked the commissioners for their help in making the Bridge workshop so successful
- McMahon Springs public hearing went well and Gene Ragland thanked the WCHDC, Ann Arbor Township, and WCBOC for all their hard work to make this historic district possible.
- The WCHDC awaits news on the CLG grant announcements for **HistWeb Phase II**.
- The historic marker is being fabricated for Harwood Cemetery and committee will want to plan a ceremony.

Treasurer's Report: \$2000 remains in the WCHDC budget.

Report from Commissioners:

- Task Force: Tabled to May
- Education Committee: Already covered
- Marker Committee: Dodd reported that he and Majher will go out in the field with GIS staff, Nate Arnold, who will teach them how to use a GPS. They will search out the 52 markers, assess their condition, photograph them and take coordinates from GPS. Dodd also handed out the Cobblestone Farm Newsletter detailing how the once strong partnership between the Farm Association and Ann Arbor has now dissolved.
- In answer to an inquiry, King is going to check with Squire Jaros in Lansing about whether Centennial Farm ownership can pass through the matriarchal line, and report back to the WCHDC.

Agenda Items for May 6, 2004 Meeting:

- Approval of roof replacement for 9105 West Ann Arbor Road, Superior Twp
- Approval of Merriman Farm Preliminary report
- Harwood Cemetery Marker dedication on May 23
- Field Trip for July meeting
- Task Force letter to LUGS
- Review of WCHDC Awards Criteria

9. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m. **On a motion by Riddering, and seconded by Ralph, the meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Kreykes, HDC Staff Intern
Washtenaw County Historic District Commission