

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Minutes of Monthly Meeting

<p>DATE: September 2, 2004 TIME: 4:30 p.m. PLACE: 705 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan Zeeb Road Room 2010</p>

1. Call to Order: Don Riddering called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m.
2. Roll Call: Marnie Paulus called the roll. Commissioners Nancy Snyder, Tom Dodd, Alice Ralph, Pat Kelly, Don Riddering, Pat Majher and Mark Higbee were present constituting a quorum. Jean King and Jasper Pennington were absent.
3. Approval of August 2004 meeting Minutes: **On a motion by Kelly, seconded by Ralph, it was moved to approve the minutes as corrected by Tom Dodd. Motion carried.**
4. Approval of Agenda as amended: Added Historic Markers and postponed NACP report. **On a motion by Ralph, seconded by Higbee, the agenda was approved as amended. Motion carried.**
5. Introduction of Guests: Eulalia Stewart, representing the Friends of Popkins School, was introduced.
6. Application Reviews: None
7. Business:
Procedures of the WCHDC: During discussion about the need for a better process and more oversight to create and protect the nine historic districts in the county there was general agreement that
 - Nancy Snyder will produce a checklist of steps to be followed by owners and townships with local historic districts.
 - Marnie Paulus will contact Peggy Haines, Register of Deeds, about recording the Historic District Ordinance with boundary map and list of protected resources with the deed.
 - The WCHDC will reinstitute yearly reviews of historic districts.

WCHDC Awards Criteria Vote: There was discussion about the rewritten awards criteria and some concern expressed about moving away from the mission of the WCHDC in giving an award for other than buildings, sites and objects. That argument was countered by the

opinion that the awards would bring increased attention to Historic Preservation by extension, and that the Community Memory award would have wide appeal. Tom Dodd called the question which was voted on and approved.

In a motion by Riddering, seconded by Kelly, it was moved to approve the Awards Criteria as rewritten.

Ayes: Dodd, Higbee, Kelly, Riddering, Snyder

Nays: Majher, Ralph

The motion carried.

October Field Trip: Because the WCHDC has a full agenda, it was decided to schedule the field trip on a day other than a regular meeting date. The date will be determined via email and Paulus will contact Riddering by phone.

8. Reports:

Communications: Preservation Magazine is in the office. Save October 23, 2004 for a Design Review Workshop in Ann Arbor.

Staff Report:

Paulus reported on efforts in the Department of Planning and Environment to have a Standard Operating Procedure to create and protect the county's historic districts.

- Paulus will work with Curtis Hedger, Corporation Counsel, on writing a contract to be signed by the county and the local unit of government before a historic district study committee can be appointed. They will work on contracts for historic districts in York and Salem Townships.
- Paulus and the Planning Department will produce maps of the historic districts with their boundaries and protected resources to be shared with township officials and the road commission.
- The historic district boundary, list of protected resources and a site plan will be included in the historic district ordinance beginning with Merriman Farm Historic District Ordinance which will be recorded with the Register of Deeds.
- Descriptions of the two new historic districts will be added to the brochure.

Judd Road Bridge/Gooding House Proposed District-Once the contract with York Township is signed, it may be necessary to bring this proposed district back to the WCHDC for a vote.

HistWeb 2- Five staff members are currently conducting field surveys and writing up the field notes. Paulus will go to Lansing in the next few weeks to discuss plans for the HistWeb 3 grant. The 2005 grant cycle is

tied to Governor Granholm's "Cool Cities" initiative and Paulus will look to the recommendations in the County's Comprehensive Plan for her grant proposal. Possibilities include a study and plan for the most significant historic bridges slated for replacement in the county or determining National Register eligibility for a select number county's Centennial Farms most at risk from development

Wilbur Road Bridge Meeting-Paulus reported that Martha MacFarlane-Faes, Environmental Review Coordinator, SHPO, went through the citizen's concerns about the Wilbur Road Bridge process, read the responses from the Road Commission and asked for more comments. McFarlane-Faes agreed to sign off on the MOA provided MDOT, Washtenaw County and Bridgewater Township agreed to collaborate on the design elements of bridge width, color, railing, landscaping, approaches and retaining walls. The parties agreed and disputes will be handled by SHPO and Federal Highway Administration.

Treasurer's Report: \$288.75 remains in the 2004 WCHDC budget.

Report from Commissioners:

Tom Dodd asked for help in locating Historic Markers and reported on his trip to the Oxford Round Table.

The remaining agenda items were postponed to October.

Agenda Items for October 7, 2004 Meeting:

- Judd Road Bridge and Gooding House (York)
- John Wesley Conant House (Salem)
- NAPC conference presentation – Alice Ralph

9. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:30p.m. **On a motion by Nancy Snyder, and seconded by Mark Higbee, the meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,

Marnie Paulus, Historic Preservation Coordinator
Washtenaw County Historic District Commission