

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Minutes of Monthly Meeting

DATE: October 7, 2004
TIME: 4:30 p.m.
PLACE: 705 Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan
Zeeb Road Room 2010

1. Call to Order-4:30pm
2. Roll Call: Nancy Snyder, Jean King, Tom Dodd, Pat Kelly, Donald Riddering, Alice Ralph, Jasper Pennington and Staff, Marnie Paulus. Mark Higbee was absent.
3. Approval of Minutes of September Meeting-moved and passed as amended.
4. Approval of Agenda: approved as amended to include information on Gordon Hall by Jean King and the possible Dexter Bypass.
5. Introduction of Guests: Eulalia Stewart, neighbor of Popkins School Historic District.
6. Application Reviews: None
7. Business:
 - HistWeb III Proposal. Discussion about scope of proposal, the Michigan Above-Ground survey, the establishment of criteria relating to design and clarification on contents of HistWeb I & II.
Motion by Ralph, seconded by Riddering, to accept the HistWeb III proposal. The motion carried.
8. Reports
 - Communications: Received letter of resignation from Pat Majher with regret. Discussion about possible replacement.
 - Staff Report:
 - i. Merriman Farm Historic District: Please read the final study committee report. The historic district ordinance passed through Ways and Means last night (October 6, 2004) and Martha Kern praised Betty Jean Murray for designating her property.
 - ii. Judd Road Bridge/Gooding House proposed district: with the help of Curtis Hedger and Tony VanDerworp, Marnie Paulus drafted a contract outlining the scope of services to be performed by the township and the county.
 - iii. John Wesley Conant House proposed district: Ina Hanel, Shelley Griffith, Anne Kreykes and Marnie Paulus conducted a historic field survey of the property and interviewed Jim, John and Olive

Conant on September 21, 2004 about the proposed district. Committed citizens to serve on the study committee are needed.

- iv. Wilbur Road Bridge MOA: All parties have received the MOA for Wilbur Road Bridge which includes a clause that MDOT, the county and Bridgewater Township shall agree on a mutually satisfactory design for the new bridge.
- v. Strengthening the Historic District Process: We have our first map of a historic district to review (very impressive...Pennington). It contains an aerial photo of the district resource and boundary with roads, easements and right-of-way. There is a locator map, a list of protected resources and the pertinent language from Section 3 of Ordinance #115. This map will go to the townships and the WCRC. Scott Kaiser in Drains is working on the map project using material from Paulus and VanDerworp.
- vi. In the future townships will be asked to sign a resolution before the study committee recommendation goes to the Board of Commissioners and a contract outlining the scope of services and requirements of both parties. We will also require future historic district property owners to record the historic district ordinance with the Register of Deeds. The ordinance will have a list of protected resources, a site plan and the historic district boundary.
- vii. National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference in Louisville, Kentucky: Marnie Paulus attended the sessions on the bridge projects in Louisville, successful context sensitive design projects in the south and the changing demographics in the U.S. She also toured Harrodsburg, Pleasant Hill Shaker Village, the Cherokee Triangle Historic District, the Woodford Reserve Distillery, participated in a steamboat cruise on the Ohio River, and took the Overview Tour of three river cities noting the shotgun houses and cast iron Commercial Italianate district in Louisville.
- viii. Design Review Workshop on 10/23/04. The county is the co-sponsor of this workshop and Marnie Paulus urges us to sign up and send in our checks.

The \$10.00 charge can be put on our per diem sheet in November.

- Treasurers Report from Pat Kelly.
- Report from Commissioners
 - Popkins School Update by Nancy Snyder. Several have expressed interest in using the school and property for something useful (i.e. an ATM, Starbucks, Bank).
 - Delhi Bridge status was reported by Nancy Snyder.
 - Dexter Bypass vis-à-vis Gordon Hall was reported by Jean King and Pat Kelly and there was concern expressed about disruption to the landscape and historic fabric. Kelly will attend the Dexter Mill Pond Bridge meeting.
 - Historic Marker inventory reported by Tom Dodd with result that 61 markers and districts were noted and 56 have been found. Photographs as well as location of all markers and districts will be included in the WCHDC web page. Tom Dodd is researching the house where Panama Township was organized.
 - Education report not available.
 - At 4:00 PM, Commissioner Alice Ralph presented a fine power point report on her attendance at the National Association of Preservation Commissioners (NAPC) conference in Indianapolis. Illustrating her comments about the content of the conference with photographs of Indianapolis buildings and preservation activities, the report offers an example of the kind of presentation which would enhance any of our educational programs and presentations to township officials, commission members and potential historic district owners. Splendid!

Respectfully submitted:

Jasper Green Pennington, Secretary
Washtenaw County Historic District Commission
25 October 2004