WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Minutes of Monthly Meeting

DATE: December 2, 2004
TIME: 4:30 p.m.
PLACE: 705 Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan
Zeeb Road Room 2010

1. **Call to Order**- Chair Snyder called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.
2. **Roll Call**: Nancy Snyder, Jean King, Tom Dodd, Pat Kelly, Donald Riddering, Alice Ralph, Jasper Pennington and Staff, Marnie Paulus. Mark Higbee, absent.
3. **Approval of Minutes of November Meeting**: On a motion by Ralph, seconded by Pennington, the minutes were approved as amended.
4. **Approval of Agenda**: On a motion by Riddering, seconded by Pennington, the agenda was approved.
5. **Introduction of Guests**: Three students from Washtenaw Technical College with a government assignment, Emma Connor, Ashley Amann and Katie Riecks; Mr. Jack Valentine, York Twp, representing the neighbors of Judd Road Bridge and Tony VanDerworp, Director of Planning and Environment; Mr. Steve Ranzini of University Bank, Ann Arbor and Eulalia Stewart were there to discuss Popkins School.
5. **Application Reviews:** None
6. **Business:**

Popkins School: A possible use of Popkins School was outlined by Mr. Steve Ranzini of the Ann Arbor University Bank who has been in discussion with Chair Nancy Snyder. Discussion took place with the Commissioners who raised questions about zoning, state of the building for public use, security and safety issues. The Commissioners gave their approval for the investigation to continue.

Historic District Proposal for York Township: Mr. Jack Valentine of York Township, representing the neighbors of Judd Road Bridge explained their concerns and their present discussion with the Washtenaw County Road Commission. Valentine shared his letter to WCBOC Chair, Leah Gunn, with the commission and reported that he had attempted to attend the WCRC Board Meeting which was cancelled.

Conant Farm Historic District: Conant House Historic District Study Committee is approved including Ina Hanel, Shelley Griffith, Kathy Holtz, Wilhemina Lawson, Brian Etter, Olive Conant (property owner), Donald L. Riddering (Salem Area Historical Society and WCHDC commissioner; Nancy Snyder, Chair, WCHDC, and Marnie Paulus, Department of Planning and Environment. **On a motion by Dodd, seconded by King, the motion to approve the Conant Farm Historic District Study Committee was approved.**

Slate of WCHDC officers by nominating committee-postponed to January

7. **Communications: Preservation Sourcebook and the Preservation Magazine are in the office.**

8. **Staff Report for 2 December 2004:**

Merriman Farm Historic District: Owner Betty Jean Murray and Marnie Paulus took the Merriman Farm Historic District Ordinance to the Register of Deeds but were unable to record it with the property deed. They were told that it was already recorded with the County Clerk and Ms. Murray is going to her title company with the ordinance in hopes of it being attached to the title.

Proposed Historic District in York Township: The resolution and contract are ready to go to York Township for approval. Tony VanDerworp, Director of the Department of Planning and Environment, reported to the commission that he sent a letter to Mr. Steve Puuri of the Washtenaw Road Commission asking for any pertinent information about why the Judd Road Bridge is slated for replacement and any impacts to the general safety of the traveling public if the bridge is not replaced. Tony awaits a reply before he can send the contract to York Township and the resolution to appoint a historic district study committee to the WCBOC. He also reported that he sought the opinion of Curtis Hedger, Corporation Counsel, who opined that there was nothing in the statutes to prevent moving forward on this request.

Historic Bridge Project: During November, Tony Van Derworp, Marnie Paulus, Jason Kaplan, Kathy Holtz, Dan Myers and Ken Reiter met to discuss strategies for dealing proactively with the remaining historic bridges in Washtenaw County. Holtz and Paulus were given the assignment of photographing 7 to 10 of the structures and assigning them a grade of *yes, no, maybe or needs context sensitive replacement.*

9. **Treasurer's Report:** The commission has used the funds allotted to them in 2004.

10. **Reports from Commissioners**

    Historic Markers (Tom Dodd): Commissioner Thomas Dodd reported on the Historic Markers & Historic District Project to identify and locate these entities and make them part of the official WCHDC Web Page. Each entry is accompanied by a photograph, description, location and relevant dates. Commissioners also received the Winter 2004 edition of the Riverside Ypsilanti Arts Center Newsletter.

9. Adjournment at 6 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jasper Green Pennington, Secretary
20 December 2004