

Washtenaw County Historic District Commission
STAFF REPORT
April 2009

1) CLG Grant Opportunity

We are still waiting to hear the decision of the SHPO's office about this application. Per a recent phone call to the grant coordinator, we can expect communication from the SHPO sometime during the month of April.

2) Rawsonville School

Per Commissioner Gray's report, Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation has declined the opportunity to purchase this historic one-room school. Other potential buyers are presently being sought, and the option of moving the school is being explored through staff research. At this time, YCUA has tentative plans to demolish the school in September or October 2009, unless another solution can be reached by that time.

In related news, please note that there will be a **One-Room Schoolhouse Association Conference in Saline, at the Weber-Blaess School, on May 16**. Contact Jim or Cheryl Hoeft at (734)429-5922 for more information.

3) Historic Preservation Easements & Conservation Easements

In response to a recent trend of Washtenaw County local historic district property owners seeking conservation easements on their rural properties, Office of Strategic Planning staff created a resource paper to explore diversified options in protecting rural open space and historic/cultural resources. Land trusts/conservancies and historic preservation groups at the local, state, and Midwest-regional level were engaged in this research, which provides case studies and solutions for layering traditional historic preservation tools with conventional conservation easements or free-standing historic preservation easements. This paper is in the final stages of editing, and will be made publicly available in the near future.

4) USS Washtenaw County

Historic preservation intern Denise McGeen has evaluated the current condition of the USS Washtenaw County artifacts, and has sought information regarding the estimated cost for repair or new exhibition construction. This matter will be discussed at the April 9 HDC meeting. *See attached summary sheet.*

5) HDC Brochure

Historic preservation intern Denise McGeen has also created a new Local Historic Districts Brochure, which was introduced to the HDC at last month's meeting. Please review this new resource, and provide comment.

6) Native American Trails Marker

Per last month's presentation by Parks Planner Kira Macyda, please take time to review the attached final proof of the Native American Trails Marker. We need to provide final comments to Kira by mid-April in order to have first marker ordered and prepared in time for the scheduled unveiling on June 28 – Log Cabin Day at Parker Mill.

Respectfully Submitted,



Melissa Milton-Pung, Principal Preservation Planner
Washtenaw County Office of Strategic Planning