

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission
Held in the Caucus Room of the Municipal Building
On Wednesday, May 11, 2016**

The Chairman, Joe Richvalsky, called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Roll Call:

Members: Present – Chairman, Joe Richvalsky; Vice Chairman, Ralph White; Lois Shinko; Clint Gault

Guests: Jim Dosztal, Joanne Dosztal, and Dorothy Hricovec

Terri Czup, Media Relations, City of Avon – arrived later in the meeting

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of Wednesday, April 13, 2016

A motion was made by Mr. White and seconded by Ms. Shinko to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, April 13, 2016, and approve said minutes as published, and the vote was all ayes.

Addition to the Agenda

Mr. Richvalsky stated that our guests would like to discuss the demolition of a house and asked for a motion to add that to the agenda as the first item. Mr. Gault made that motion and the vote was all ayes.

Demolition of House at 3490 Long Road

Ms. Dosztal stated that they are purchasing property on 3490 Long Road from Dorothy Hricovec who is the current owner. Their intention is to tear down the house and rebuild; however, they were informed by the Building Department that the house is on the list of landmark houses and cannot be torn down. So they are here to go through what the procedure is for being able to demolish the house.

Mr. Richvalsky explained that there is a list of Avon landmarks that was made by a historic preservationist and it is a list of honor for properties in Avon that are recognized for any kind of historic value that they have to Avon's heritage. If there is a request for a demolition of a landmark, there is a process to go through so that the Landmarks Preservation Commission can hear the reason for the request, and if there is a way to save the property, they hope they can help do that.

Mr. White asked why they wanted to tear the house down and Ms. Dosztal responded that the house is in horrible condition. It would cost them more to renovate the house than it would be to tear it down. It would take a full remodel, from the studs. Also, they are a six-person family and this house has three bedrooms. It would cost them a fortune to renovate and build.

Mr. Richvalsky said that the Dosztals would have to fill out the application for demolition, they would come back to the meeting next month and the LPC would go through it formally. They would vote on the demolition and if it is approved, the Dosztals can get the permit the next day. If the demolition is denied, then there would be a six-month moratorium before they could get the demolition permit. The reason for that is, especially for the more prized properties in town, that it is a way to hopefully help to save a property or come up with another solution to demolition because once something is demolished,

it is gone forever. Mrs. DosztaI stated that there is nothing architecturally or aesthetically interesting on this house; it is just an old house.

Mr. Gault added that the goal of the LPC is to try to preserve the heritage, the history, and the culture of Avon where it makes sense to preserve it. But if it does not make sense to preserve it, he would say that they are not as a whole trying to save every old thing just because it is old but only if it makes sense to save it because it has some charm or character for that long-term perspective. Mr. White stated that other cities do have a lot of other rules; if they are certified by the State, they will tell you what kind of shingles, windows, etc. to put in. We do not do that; we could but we have chosen not to.

Landmark Nomination

Mr. Richvalsky stated that he was going to nominate the Dairy Treat but he could not find the form on the website.

Terri Czup arrived at this time and Mr. Richvalsky mentioned to her again that he could not find the nomination form on the website. Ms. Czup answered that that is probably because it was not given to her to upload; if the forms have not been electronically managed yet, then we need to get the documents. Mr. Richvalsky noted that they were on the old website but Ms. Czup said that does not mean that they were transferred. She did not recall doing that. She said that if Mr. Richvalsky would email her any documents that he has, she will put a link to it to manage that. Mr. Richvalsky said he would do that and then he will fill out the form and nominate the Dairy Treat and we can vote on it next month.

LPC Project Committees

Landmark Awards Committee

Mr. White stated that he had two award letters to mail: 37485 Detroit Road, at the corner of Hayes and Detroit, owned by Rich and Tricia Achtziger, and 39351 Detroit Road, at the corner of Case and Detroit, owned by Bruce and Julie Walker, which is the Ezra Jackson House. Mr. White said that he changed the letters a bit to state the historical reference to a house.

Mr. Richvalsky said there is a house he would like to suggest for an award letter. It is on Kinzel Road and has been renovated in the last three or four years. Mr. White added that there are two restored barns there also and he will be sending a personalized letter to the owner. Mr. Richvalsky noted that the LPC can always give Mr. White suggestions for award letters.

History Walk Committee

Mr. Richvalsky said that he went with Scott Seighman to Avon High School and met with the student group that does their newspaper. They have volunteered to be the authors of our topics. Our goal was to get everything done by June 21st but even if that does not happen, we have made progress. He said that he gave the students his five or six resources and told them they would find everything they needed within those resources for information for the topics. He also gave them our templates for each board, several timeline dates, and three main articles. They know the text size; we will take what they give us and submit it to our graphic layout company to put together. It will be up to us to assign the photographs out of our stock.

Mr. Richvalsky said that he would call Matt Smith about the photographs that he has scanned and he would also call Jack Smith in regard to his plaque donation.

Ms. Czap stated that she has not heard anything about the grant from First Energy but is still assuming that we are getting the \$10,000. Mr. White said that once we have the money, it would be nice to get a plaque or two done. Mr. Richvalsky said that he would be getting together again with Mr. Seighman and see what is going on with the students. Ms. Czap said it would possibly be October before something is done but it is moving in a positive direction.

Date of Next Meeting

Mr. Richvalsky stated that the next meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission would be held on Wednesday, June 8, 2016, at 7:00 P.M. in the Caucus Room of Avon City Hall.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Gault to adjourn the meeting and the vote was all ayes.

Transcribed by Gail Hayden, Assistant Clerk of Council