

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission
Held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building
On Wednesday, February 9, 2022**

The Chairman, Matt Smith, called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.

Roll Call

Members: Present –Vice Chairman Ralph White; Lois Shinko; Clint Gault; Chairman Matt Smith

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of January 12, 2022

A motion was made by Mr. Smith to dispense with the reading of the minutes of January 12, 2022, and approve said minutes as published. The vote was all ayes and the Chairman declared the motion passed.

Landmarks Letter of Recognition – Ralph White

Mr. White said he had nothing.

Landmarks Nominations – Lois Shinko

Ms. Shinko said she did not have any nominations.

Comments

Mr. White said that, in regard to Center Cemetery, he talked to Chris Yeager of Atlas Concrete Leveling and he really did not think it would work for the Cemetery but he was willing to come out and look and perhaps he could help us and if he could not, he would suggest other options for what we could be doing. The weather has been bad and with all the snow at the Cemetery, you cannot really see the ground or the bases of the monuments so they have had to postpone their meeting a couple times since the bad weather has continued. Mr. White said that he will contact Mr. Yeager again to make plans to meet once it is nice enough that they can stand outside and talk and he can see the stones in question. When Mr. White last talked to Mr. Yeager, he was excited about it and said, yes, to give him a call to set it up. Mr. White said that he does want to have him look at the Cemetery and see if anything can be done and then either way, to get hold of Tim Stallman of Eternity Monuments again and get him to do some things. So maybe Atlas Concrete Leveling can do the headstones that are questionable and then Tim Stallman can do the other ones and some other work of picking up headstones and putting them on their bases. But with the weather, it is a challenge so we will just see one week at a time.

Mr. Smith said that when we spoke with Mayor Jensen last month, he mentioned that he would like to get a yearly budget set up for the Center Cemetery so there are always some funds allocated to repair things. So there would be x amount of money every year and we would pick the priorities. Mr. White said, yes, there are headstones up there that need attention but they are not in such a critical state that they cannot wait another year or two. So we would first do the ones that have fallen over or are leaning and could just topple over; anything that needs that kind of attention we would do those first. It might take 10 years but at least if you do a little bit at a time, doing something good is better than doing nothing.

Mr. Gault asked if anybody has said anything about the pro/con on the idea of taking out some of the headstones that are beginning to fall over and replacing with something smaller? Mr. White said, no. Tim Stallman had talked a bit about lifting the stones and the bases and then pouring a footer for the ones that are leaning. He said he could pull them up and wedge stones and dirt under them to keep them level but he said eventually, you are going to end up with another leaning stone. It is more of a band-aid fix but even that would be better than not doing anything. He would be ok with that if we could get 10 or 20 years out of it. But Mr. Stallman did not want to even touch the really big one, the Sweet family stone. Mr. Yeager said that you have to drill holes for the fill to go underneath the stone and you are not going to drill a piece of sandstone that thick. But he wants to come and look at it to see what might work. So again, once the snow melts a bit and it is warm enough to get up there and walk around and look and talk, then we will go from there.

Mr. Smith stated that he has been to the Cahoon House a few times and Sheri Seroka has done a very nice job of displaying the furniture and artifacts, etc. He said that she told him that Jean Fischer had family in town right before Christmas and Ms. Seroka took them through the house and they really liked what she had done. Also, Mr. Smith had Erin Robichaud from the Oberlin Heritage Center speak with Mayor Jensen about how we would digitize and categorize the museum's collection. She said that is standard practice for any kind of museum. She had a document on that which she gave to the Mayor. So things are moving along there with the Cahoon House. He suggested to the Mayor that we need some type of curator even if it is part-time. It would be someone to open it up and show people the museum and when they are not doing that they could work on digitizing. Mr. Gault asked whatever happened with the County-wide bed tax and Mr. Smith said that he believed that failed but it is coming up on the ballot again this May. Mr. Gault said that he thought the original idea was that funds from the bed tax would be used to help pay for someone to be helping out in different areas like that in the City. Mr. Smith stated that the Mayor said that the City was willing to pay somebody by the hour and that was not a problem; it would just be a few hours a week. This is an evolving idea.

Date of Next Meeting

Mr. Smith stated that the next meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission would be held on Wednesday, March 9, 2022, in the Council Chambers of Avon City Hall at 7:00 P.M.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Gault to adjourn the meeting and the vote was all ayes. The Chairman declared the motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

Transcribed by Gail Hayden, Assistant Clerk of Council