

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission
Held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building
On Wednesday, April 13, 2022**

The Chairman, Matt Smith, called the meeting to order at 7:02 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 Wednesday, March 9, 2022

A motion was made by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Gault to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, March 9, 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 did not have anything.

Landmarks Nominations – Lois Shinko

Ms. Shinko said she had nothing this month.

Comments

Mr. White said, as an update on the Center Cemetery, he had been in contact with Chris Yeager of Atlas Concrete Leveling again and had hoped to meet him at the Cemetery recently but Mr. Yeager's truck had broken down that day and so he was involved with that and said he would call Mr. White back, but Mr. White never received that call. Originally Mr. Yeager had told Mr. White that he did not think the leveling would work but he would give us some ideas. Mr. White understands that the leveling probably will not work and it is going to have to be a different process, but we are not ruling it out. If Mr. Yeager calls and wants to meet then we will go and get any advice he may have.

Mr. White said that he also called Lewis Memorial in Elyria last week because on their website they say that they do repairs. Mr. White left a detailed message and then Mr. Smith said that he would talk to them. Mr. Smith stated that he spoke today with the owner, Chris Lewis, and explained to him that the City of Avon wants to have an annual budget for maintenance of the tombstones at Center Cemetery. Mr. Lewis said that he would be interested in doing a maintenance program and would call tomorrow to set up a meeting this Friday at the Cemetery with himself and Mr. White. He would first repair the stones that are drastically in need of help and then go from there to maintain all the grave markets.

Mr. White stated that he was here at City Hall earlier in the week and talked to Mayor Jensen and he had mentioned an application for a grant for the Cemetery repairs so that is something down the road that is possible. Mr. Smith asked if the Mayor gave Mr. White any materials on that and Mr. White said, no, he just mentioned it for now. Mr. Smith said, yes, we definitely want to pursue any grant money.

Mr. Gault stated that his comment regarded the French Creek Foundation's Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast which was a fantastic event. The City was very supportive; the Mayor always helps out a lot with things and what Mr. Gault loves about events like this is that so many people get involved to help out. He said that so many different groups, businesses, organizations, and individuals came together to make the event awesome. He said that they had 400 tickets and they sold out; all the money that comes in goes toward beautifying the City such as the flowers that are planted down Detroit Road. So is was a great team effort and a great event.

Mr. Smith said that he wanted to give a little update on the Cahoon House. An Open House was held on Monday, April 4th, for City Council and other City Administrators. Mr. Smith went to that and he said that Sheri Seroka did a really nice job presenting the house. She gave them a tour so that was good, with the interest of City Hall, because obviously they supplied the money to buy the house and it was nice for them to see coming to fruition what Ms. Seroka had done. And then this past Saturday, April 9th, there was an Open House for the public and he also went to that. A lot of people were there and Ms. Seroka was giving them a tour. When he was there with Council on Monday night, he was hoping that Council people would ask the Mayor how he planned on keeping the Cahoon House open for the public. As the Mayor had told Mr. White and himself, he is looking at probably hiring Parks & Rec personnel to open it a couple hours on the weekends and then he is also hoping for volunteers that would want to help. He said that is still a process that is evolving but he wants to get it open as soon as possible.

Mr. Smith then asked Mr. White to explain to Mr. Gault and Ms. Shinko about the old City Hall documents and what is going on with that. Mr. White stated that there is a fire-proof cabinet with old City history books, like City records, and they go back to 1818, and Wilbur Cahoon is actually in there and a lot of the Avon pioneers' names that we hear when we talk about Avon history. There was a discussion about getting these documents digitized. Rose Seighman contacted the Bay Village Historical Society at Mr. Smith's suggestion because they have done a lot of scanning on their records. Mr. White said that he talked to Ms. Seighman today and she did not know that we would go that route. Mr. White told her that he would be talking about it at our meeting tonight and then possibly getting ahold of Lorain County Historical Society because they do a lot of scanning of their records and books and Mr. Smith thought it was a good idea. He and Mr. Smith talked about it before the meeting tonight so that is kind of what we are going to do right now and look at that and see if we can safely get the books transported for that, perhaps personally deliver them and pick them up because they are old and delicate.

Mr. Smith noted that the Avon Historical Society website is still coming along. Jason Hirz, who is a member of the Avon Historical Society, has been working on that and he gave us an update at our Historical Society meeting last week and it is just about ready to come online. Mr. White asked Mr. Smith if he got the email link to that and Mr. Smith said that Mr. Hirz gave him one a couple weeks ago of what he had done then. He does not know if Mr. Hirz has an updated link to give him. Mr. White said he thought that it is completed and now it is at the point where things are entered and additions are made because all of the structure is there, but there were no pictures. Mr. Smith stated that Mr. Hirz wanted to come over and get more scanned photos from Mr. White. Mr. White said that he had already done that and has about 30 photos to start with. Mr. Smith noted the Historical Society website would be a great place to put the old City documents that have been digitized.

Mr. White stated that there is an old barn on the property on the north side of Chester Road between Jaycox and Nagel and the barn is on our landmarks list. It is a white barn, close to Chester Road, about 25-30 ft. and it has a landmarks plaque on it. The property is for sale and a friend of his had mentioned that the woman that owned the barn was not sure about the plaque. This is a while back. She is going to

sell the property so we do not know what will happen but she had mentioned about getting off the landmark list to sell it but she has not contacted us and the plaque is still there. The property has not sold yet but we should kind of look into what the plans are going to be and if she wants to get it off the list and return the plaque. Ms. Shinko asked if Mr. White thought that the barn is still good and Mr. White said, yes, but when people buy property they tear all that down. So we do not know what is going to happen because it is not sold but she mentioned wanting to get it off the list and this was a year ago but he noticed today that the property is for sale.

Date of Next Meeting

Mr. Smith stated that the next meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission would be held on Wednesday, May 11, 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 Ms. Shinko to adjourn the meeting and the vote was all ayes. The Chairman declared the motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Gail Hayden, Assistant Clerk of Council