

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission
Held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building
On Wednesday, June 8, 2022**

The Chairman, Matt Smith, called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Roll Call

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

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Smith stated that the Landmarks Preservation Commission meeting scheduled for May 11, 2022, was cancelled so there are no minutes for that date.

Landmarks Letter of Recognition – Ralph White

Mr. White said he had nothing for this month.

Landmarks Nominations – Lois Shinko

Ms. Shinko stated that she did not have anything.

Comments

Mr. White stated that since they did not have a meeting last month, he would review old information about restoring the headstones at the Center Cemetery. He said that he was originally in touch with Tim Stallman of Eternity Monuments and he did go to the Cemetery and did an assessment but never gave us any estimate. Mr. White said he also talked to Lewis Memorial but that fell through also. So then he made contact with Mike Milano of Milano Monuments and he came out and met Mr. White at the Cemetery and they went over everything. Mr. Milano was interested in doing the work and said that possibly in August or September he could start taking an inventory of the stones and making notes of what each one needed, whether it was just cleaning or straightening, or putting in dowels, etc. Mr. White mentioned stainless steel dowels and Mr. Milano said you really do not want those; he uses plastic dowels because they do not affect the sandstone or the marble or the granite. That kind of plastic dowel would last forever as it would not corrode and it is also light. There are several stones that need that kind of repair and there are a couple that are on the verge of falling. Mr. Milano talked about the big Sweet monument that is leaning and is on the dangerous side; he talked of removing the sandstone slabs and building a concrete base like a footer and then setting the actual monument on that. He seemed excited about the project which is something that we did not get from the other two companies so we are just waiting now to see what happens next. And Mr. Milano is in contact with the Mayor's office anyway for the other project he has with the City.

Mr. Smith noted that the other project that Mike Milano is doing for the City is with Eagle Point Park, just adjacent to Veterans Park on Detroit Road. There are two giant pieces of sandstone mounted out at the entrance of the park and the City has hired Mr. Milano to carve in the sandstone "Eagle Point Park" and a big eagle. Mr. Smith said that he spoke yesterday with Rose Seighman, the Mayor's Administrative Assistant, and asked her if Mr. Milano had mentioned anything to her about doing the Cemetery survey

and she was not really aware of that. She said that Mr. Milano would be calling any day about the engraving process at Eagle Point Park and Mr. Smith asked her to bring the Cemetery subject up with him and advise him that the City wants to hire him for that project as well. Mr. Smith asked Ms. Seighman to please contact him when she talks to Mr. Milano and when that happens he will inform the LPC.

Mr. White added that he had shown Mr. Milano some of the stones that have like a fungus growth on them from dirt and moss, etc. that has built up over the years and Mr. Milano said that he has a spray that is eco-friendly and it removes all that. He said you would not believe the difference it makes; it makes the stone look like new. He suggested getting some volunteers of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to go to the Cemetery and Milano Monuments would show them how to use the spray and that would save the City some money too.

Mr. Gault said that the Boy Scouts, Eagle Scouts, and Girl Scouts are fantastic. They are always volunteering and doing things for the French Creek Foundation. Every year they volunteer for projects for the Christmas Tree Lighting events and they help each year with planting the flowers on Detroit Road. He said that if Mr. White would call his office, he can get the contact information for the Scouts, and he gave Mr. White the telephone number.

Mr. Smith stated that he did not know if Mr. Gault and Ms. Shinko were aware that old ledgers of the City of Avon going back to 1818, were found at City Hall. These are old, old documents of any happenings with the City government; one section had a list of all the residents who served in the Civil War. He and Mr. White were contacted by Mayor Jensen about what to do with the ledgers. So the public can look at them, they need to be scanned and digitized. Donna Kelly Sprinkle, Director of the Avon Branch Library, runs the Lorain County Memory.org website and she is willing to train somebody with her scanning equipment to scan the ledgers. They can go to the library and scan these materials and Ms. Sprinkle could get a digitized copy of these records to post on Lorain County Memory.com. The City of Avon would also want a digitized copy and they were willing to pay somebody to do it. So a student who just graduated from Avon High School has been hired for 50 hours of work to do this. And then eventually we will have to figure out what to do with the actual books. Mr. Smith thought that the Avon Historical Society would want them. He said that he would keep everyone updated on this. Mr. Smith added that this would be invaluable for people who want to study their families, genealogy or some historian who wants to study Avon; it could be a historian 100 years from now. So he is excited about this.

Mr. Smith stated that there will be an Open House at the Cahoon House next Thursday, June 16th, 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M., for people who donated items. Mr. Smith said that he will be there volunteering, being a guide for people. And Sheri Seroka asked him if he would also be a guide on Saturday, June 25th and Sunday, June 26th, which is the Antique and Uncle Junke weekend. The Cahoon House will be open to the general public on that weekend from 10:00 A. M. to 2:00 P.M. And Mr. White is going to have the Old Town Hall open that weekend on Sunday, June 26th, 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Mr. White added that people have shown interest in wanting to go in the Old Town Hall and the Historical Society will have items to sell such as prints, the tour guidebook, etc. He has a couple people who have volunteered to take his place as a guide at the Cahoon House on Sunday. Mr. Smith said that Ms. Seroka told him that the Mayor is working on getting someone permanently hired a few hours a week at the Cahoon House so that there will be set hours for public tours.

Mr. Gault stated that the French Creek Foundation planning meetings are beginning for the Christmas Tree Lighting events. He announced that this year the events are being moved over to the Every Child's Playground area for safety reasons. And then logistically it was difficult blocking off spaces down in the

area of Old Avon Village. So they are going to plan it this year at Every Child's Playground and go from there. He said that this year they are trying to tie it in with the new Tree Commission as well and he noted lots of ideas for the trees to be lighted. He said they were also thinking about seeing if the Parks and Recreation Dept. was interested in coordinating an ice-skating rink over there in that area. The more activities we bring to the whole area of Every Child's Playground make it more and more attractive as a gathering place for the City. The thought is maybe having a little skate park there in the wintertime and have it free for the night of the event.

Mr. White said that another thing he wanted to mention was that Franciscus Roofing was contracted to put a new roof on the Jameson House and barn. Mr. Smith said, and everyone was probably aware that the City bought Buck's Hardware, although we do not yet know what is going to happen to it. They are going to go look at the building and see if it is feasible economically to save it.

Date of Next Meeting

Mr. Smith stated that the next meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission would be held on Wednesday, July 13, 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.

Respectfully submitted by Gail Hayden, Assistant Clerk of Council