

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission
Held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building
On Wednesday, July 13, 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 the Minutes of the Meeting of April 13, 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, April 13, 2022, and approve said minutes as published. The vote was all ayes and the Chairman declared the motion passed.

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of June 8, 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, June 8, 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 for this month.

Landmarks Nominations – Lois Shinko

Ms. Shinko stated that she did not have anything.

Comments

a. Center Cemetery – Mr. Smith asked Mr. White to refresh everyone on his conversation with Mike Milano of Milano Monuments and Mr. White said that he met with Mr. Milano at the Cemetery and went over all the stones that are in need of immediate attention. Mr. Milano said that he wanted to do an inventory of the Cemetery to see what needs to be done and then work in that direction as far as the most important first. He did get back to the City with a proposal so things are in motion.

Mr. Smith referred to the proposal that Mr. White mentioned and said that Mr. Milano called it “Phase 1” for work at the City of Avon Cemetery. He read from the proposal: “the scope of work to be done: 7 upright memorials were discovered not to be level from leaning and the age of memorial foundations and are failing under these large monuments. Restore by taking out old foundations and pouring new ones, then reset memorials back on to the foundations. Then 4 smaller memorials were discovered that need to be reset back to the memorial base and 8 memorials were discovered that need to be cleaned.” Mr. Milano’s estimate on this was a total of \$13,165.

Mr. Smith said that he spoke with Mayor Jensen this past week and asked if the Landmarks Preservation Commission needed to do anything with Mr. Milano as far as signing any papers, etc. to get

this in motion and the Mayor said he would take care of that. So that is where we are and progress is being made.

Mr. Gault asked if we are thinking about the longevity of how long the monuments actually last then before they need work again and Mr. White said if they are done right, it will be a long time. Mr. Gault asked, would that mean like 20 years and Mr. White responded, no, another 100. There is not cement foundation for any of those stones; they are right on the dirt and some of them have been there for 200 years. There are other newer ones from the turn of the century that are leaning or sinking or broken off but some of the oldest ones are still in pretty good shape and upright. Mr. Gault stated that is fantastic; so knowing that they will last for a long time in the future with the restoring and preserving, is huge.

Mr. White said that he and Mr. Milano talked about one of the bigger monuments, which is the Waterman Sweet monument. It is very large and leaning, ready to fall, and Mr. Milano suggested moving the sandstone out and pouring a new base and then setting the monument on the cement, leaving out the sandstone base. And if it is on the cement it is not going to affect anything, but Mr. White said when the time comes to do the work, he would like to find out exactly what Mr. Milano's plans are and discuss doing the repair and keeping the original look of the monument. Mr. White then described how some of the work will be done by Mr. Milano who said that there is a lot involved in getting equipment in there, moving stones, etc., and the work has to be done at the right time when the ground is dry. Mr. White said he was sure that Mr. Milano will plan it properly. He sent Mr. White the proposal and said that he would copy him on all emails and correspondence with City Hall and as he receives those, Mr. White will share them with Mr. Smith and the LPC and they can talk about things at the meetings as they go.

Mr. Gault noted that there were many things that were discussed with French Creek Foundation in the past about what to do with the Cemetery in terms of preserving it etc. and it is nice to see something coming to fruition to help preserve and protect it, not just for people visiting it now but also for the people who have passed away.

b. The Cahoon House – Mr. Smith stated that on June 25th and June 26th, there was an Open House for the Cahoon House and Sheri Seroka did a very nice job organizing that. He said that Ms. Shinko was there and he and Mr. White gave tours in the house. The Open House was done in conjunction with the Aunt Teak and Uncle Junque sale weekend, because people would be out and about. Mr. White also had the Old Town Hall opened up that weekend on Sunday. On Saturday, the 25th, 29 people took a tour through the Cahoon House and on Sunday, the 26th, 31 people went through the house, so that was a very positive thing for the Cahoon House Museum. Mr. Smith said he does not know if anyone has been hired yet to be a docent there to lead tours but he knows that the position has been advertised. He said that he and Mr. White have told Mayor Jensen that they would be willing to give tours on random days. But anyway, the Open House was a taste of what is to come; there was a real good interest from people and what he liked was that there were all age groups. Mr. White added that, one thing he talked about with Ms. Seroka was that we need to have information cards on some of the artifacts so that people can read those in case a tour guide does not really know what they are. Mr. Smith said that Ms. Seroka called him and wants to meet with Mr. White and himself at some point to talk about the Open House weekend and put down some ideas on what worked and what we can do better, etc.

Rick Varga, 33676 Reserve Way, who was in the audience, said that he had the names of a few people who want to volunteer at the Cahoon House and he submitted that information to Rose Seighman, the Mayor's Administrative Assistant. He asked if there was a time set for the Cahoon House to be opened

or if we are we waiting to find somebody to volunteer? Mr. Smith said, to his knowledge, we are waiting to hear from the Mayor about the hiring of somebody as a docent.

Mr. Varga said, on another subject, the Tree Commission is working on the tree for the Christmas lighting. Mr. Gault said, yes, that is for the exciting Christmas Tree lighting ceremony which the French Creek Foundation is planning. For safety and security, this year the ceremony location is being moved over to the Aquatic Center area. The same kind of a parade will go through but it will be off the road. And then instead of lighting up either a fake tree or a temporary tree, there will be a real live tree that is planted in the park there. The French Creek Foundation is collaborating with the Tree Commission; they felt that since this was the first year for Avon to have a Tree Commission, it was a great time to work together and plant that tree and make it our go-to place for the future.

Date of Next Meeting

Mr. Smith stated that the next meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission would be held on Wednesday, August 10, 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