

**Washtenaw County Historic District Commission  
Meeting Minutes**

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>Thursday, May 4, 2023</b>
<b>TIME:</b>	5:30 pm-7:00pm
<b>PLACE</b>	Washtenaw County Eastern Government Center 415 W. Michigan Avenue, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

**Call to Order**

- Chair Ralph called the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission meeting to order at 5:30 PM
- Secretary Clarke conducted roll call:
  - **Commissioners present:** Kim Clarke, Olivia Davidson, Alice Ralph, James Mann, Anne Stevenson, Angela Oehrli
  - **Commissioners absent:** Alec Jerome, Peter Kelley, Katie Remensnyder
  - **Staff present:** Melinda Schmidt, Nathan Voght

**Approval of the Agenda of the Current Meeting:**

Chair Ralph moved to approve the agenda for the May 4, 2023 Historic District Commission meeting. Commissioner Mann seconded the motion, and with no further discussion, the agenda was unanimously approved.

**Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meetings: November 3, 2022:**

Chair Ralph moved to approve the March 2, 2023 minutes. Commissioner Stevenson seconded the motion. With no discussion, the minutes were approved unanimously.

**Citizen Participation:** Nathan Voght introduced himself to the Commission. He is the Brownfield Redevelopment Specialist for Washtenaw County and assists the HDC and HDC staff.

**Application Reviews:**

Jarvis Stone School: Staff introduced the application. Salem Area Historical Society would like to install a patio behind the schoolhouse near the green shed. The patio will feature a State of Michigan Historical Marker, flagpole, bell tower, stone benches, and brick pavers. Staff showed pictures of the proposed plans and materials. Commissioners discussed whether the proposed bell tower is compatible with the school. Commissioner Mann told the commission the original bell was located near the front of the school, and that the historical society wanted to install a replica, but the roof structure is not strong enough. Commissioner Davidson stated the patio installation would provide more community space. Commissioner Clarke stated the patio location would help draw more attention to the historic buildings on site.

Commissioner Mann made the following motion: *“to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness application for a new patio behind Jarvis Stone School, as submitted with plans, specifications, and pictures, which includes the Installation of Holland Brick pavers; Blarney Wall benches with a stone cap; a traditional green and gold Michigan Historical Marker; a wood bell tower with cedar shake shingles; and a 30 ft. x 4 in. x .125 in. Aluminum External Halyard Flagpole. HDC approval for this work is based on the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation 9 and 10.”*

9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.

10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

Commissioner Davidson seconded the motion. With no further discussion, Chair Ralph moved to a vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Business and Staff Reports:**

**Wild-Frey Farm:** The Wild-Frey Farm Survey Report has been posted for public comment and submitted to consulting parties. The Wild-Frey Farm Study Committee Report Public Meeting will take place Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at Scio Township Hall from 6-7:30pm. There will be time for questions and comments. All are welcome to attend. This is a good opportunity for the general public to meet members of the HDC.

**Thornoaks:** Staff and the Commission discussed potential replacement siding materials, including a variety of vertical siding patterns and textures.

**Certified Local Government Program:** Staff has submitted clarifications and additional information requested to SHPO regarding the CLG grant application submitted with Northfield Township Historical Society. Grant awards will be announced in May.

**Washtenaw County Updates:** The July 6th HDC meeting will tentatively be held at Gordon Hall. After the meeting, Dexter Area Historical Society will give a short tour of the house and all the work that has been done over the past few years.

**Adjournment:** Since there was no further discussion, Chair Ralph adjourned the meeting at 6:10.

*The next HDC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 1, 2023- Washtenaw County Eastern Government Center, 415 W. Michigan Avenue, Ypsilanti MI 48198*