

**Washtenaw County Historic District Commission
Meeting Minutes**

DATE:	Thursday, July 1, 2021
TIME:	5:30 pm-7:00 p.m.
PLACE:	Virtual Zoom Meeting

Call to Order

Chair Ralph called the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission meeting to order at 5:39 PM.

Roll Call

- **Commissioners present:** Katie Remensnyder attending from Ypsilanti Township, Washtenaw County, MI; Alice Ralph attending from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, MI; Peter Kelley attending from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, MI; Alec Jerome attending from Dearborn, Wayne County, MI; Olivia Davidson attending from Ypsilanti Township, Washtenaw County, MI; Blake Swihart attending from Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, MI
- **Commissioners absent:** Patti Smith, Aprille McKay, James Mann
- **Staff:** Melinda Schmidt, Chris Yelonek

Approval of the Agenda of the Current Meeting:

Chair Ralph motioned to approve the agenda of July 1, 2021 Historic District Commission meeting. Vice Chair Jerome seconded the motion, and proposed to amend to move the Commissioner Updates section to the beginning of the meeting. Chair Ralph seconded. The agenda as amended was unanimously approved.

Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting: March 6, 2021:

Vice chair Jerome motioned to approve the March 4, 2021 meeting minutes. Commissioner Kelley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Project Ideas and Updates:

- **Scio Township farmstead:** Vice-chair Jerome updated the commission on Scio Township's plans for the Wilde-Frey Centennial Farm. The farm is adjacent to a nature preserve. The Scio Board of Trustees is considering possible historic designation for the property prior to sale. It is currently a landholding of the township but in an effort to support sustainability initiatives, Scio wishes to protect the property. Among the goals of the project would be to stay green by keeping a built structure, historic character, maintain rural landscape, protect adjacencies to township parks and preserves, and promote small micro farming opportunities. To date the township has solicited a proposal for services to review and create an RFQ for the potential sale of the property if Scio is successful in designating this property. It has been discussed preliminarily for public input at the BOT meeting on June 22nd.
 - Commissioners commented on the integrity of the buildings, the similarities between preservation and conservation goals, and asked for more pictures. Alec is available to answer any further questions.

Business and Reports: Staff Report

Staff updated the Commission on the following items:

Programming and Promotional Materials

- **Histweb Update:** Phase I of the Histweb update is live.
- **CAMP workshop:** Commissioners gave a brief update on the virtual CAMP workshop.

Washtenaw County Updates

Chair Ralph asked for advance notice of a return to in-person meetings. Staff indicated there is no plan to return to in-person meetings, but OCED may know more by the next meeting. Staff will consult with Commissioners once in-person options are available.

Local Historic District Update

Conant Farm: Staff updated the commission on upcoming projects at Conant Farm. Property owners are struggling to find supplies and contractors. Staff reviewed several projects, including the barn roof, brooder house, basement repair on the Conant house, and garage. Commissioners commented more information is needed on the basement project, and will consider the project further when a formal application is submitted.

Certified Local Government Program

- **CLG Grants:** Applications are open, please contact staff about any possible projects.
- **Northfield Township Survey:** The final survey report has been submitted for comments.

Adjournment: Chair Ralph motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 pm. Commissioner Swihart seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

The next HDC meeting is scheduled for August 5, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. via Virtual Zoom Meeting