
**PITTSFIELD CHARTER TOWNSHIP
BYRD CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE
REGULAR VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES**

June 29, 2021

Pittsfield Township Administration Building
6201 W. Michigan Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bonenberger, Hanel-Gerdenich, Hunter, LeClair, Paas,
Scribner, E. Wall, M. Wall

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Richards

OTHERS PRESENT: Kimberley Johnson, Tina Lirones

1.0 Call Meeting to Order/Determination of a Quorum

Chair Hanel-Gerdenich called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. A quorum was present.

2.0 Roll Call and Announcement of Location

Members Present: Bonenberger (Meeting Remotely at Pittsfield Township)
Hanel-Gerdenich (Meeting Remotely at City of Ann Arbor)
Hunter (Meeting Remotely at Pittsfield Township)
LeClair (Meeting Remotely at Pittsfield Township)
Paas (Meeting Remotely at Pittsfield Township)
Scribner (Meeting Remotely at Pittsfield Township)
E. Wall (Meeting Remotely at Pittsfield Township)
M. Wall (Meeting Remotely at Pittsfield Township)

Members Absent: Richards

3.0 Moment of Silence to replace Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Hanel-Gerdenich led the Committee in a moment of silence for those who have lost their lives to COVID-19.

4.0 Open Meetings Act/Public Comment

Under the Open Meetings Act, any person may come forward at this time to address the Committee. Anyone who wishes to speak is requested but not required to state his/her name and address for the record.

No one Spoke

5.0 Approval of Agenda

Motion by Member Scribner, supported by Member LeClair to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

6.0 Approval of Minutes for April 6, 2021

Motion by Member Scribner, supported by Member Bonenberger to approve the minutes as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

7.0 Scheduled Guests

None

8.0 Expenditures

None

9.0 Officer Report

Chair Hanel-Gerdenich presented a power-point and discussed the outline of the Byrd Center Historic District Study Committee Report and the requirements, according to the State Enabling Legislation, of the information that must be included in the Report. The Report must have 1). An introduction stating the charge of the Committee and the makeup of the Committee Members; 2). The Property itself including the location and setting; 3). The Architectural description of the historic resources; 4). Chapter of the history of the property;

- 5). Statement of Significance of the property;
- 6). Section on the proposed boundary of the Historic District and the justification for the boundary;
- 7). Section on Conclusions and Recommendations;
- 8). Section on References.

Chair Hanel-Gerdenich requested each committee member to submit a bio to be included in the Introduction of the Report. Member Scribner will provide a map and aerial photograph of the property to depict the property's location and context. Member Bonenberger will provide the architectural description of the historic resources. Chair Hanel-Gerdenich is writing the history of the property and will continue to gather information.

Chair Hanel-Gerdenich thanked Member Bonenberger and his students for their work and time in researching and photographing the house. She also thanked Vice Chair Paas for his work in documenting the house, researching the ownership, and providing a floor plan of the house.

10.0 Old Business

Member Bonenberger shared a presentation of the exterior photographs of the Byrd property that he and his students photographed on April 5, 2021. He also shared screen shots of aerial photographs of the property from 1940 that he obtained from Washtenaw.org. His students are researching the significance of the property using the National Register of Historic Places criteria and researching the history of Upright and Wing construction.

Vice Chair Paas received drawings of the Byrd house from Member Hunter, showing the three levels of the house and the restoration work that was in progress. The drawings were not dated but projected to be about 1975. Vice Chair Paas presented his current drawings of the house and compared and discussed the layout of the house from the past drawings to present. Chair Hanel-Gerdenich suggested labeling the rooms as they are referred to presently in the current drawings and include the series of plans that reflect how the rooms may have been used in the past. The Committee discussed extensively the structural evolution of the home.

Member E. Wall suggested getting the rural property inventory of the Byrd house from the State Archives.

Member Hunter presented her research on David R. Byrd, to be included in the History section of the report and the Statement of Significance. She gathered her research from the Ann Arbor District Library Archives. Included in Member Hunter's report is a link to photographs of David Byrd and the interior of the Byrd house, along with many articles on David Byrd. Member Hunter will

send her report electronically to the Study Committee. Member Scribner will provide the plot maps for the Byrd property. She helped retrieve the register of deed information for the Report.

Member E. Wall will do research on Raleigh Nelson and Moses Wilsey.

11.0 New Business

Vice Chair Paas is researching the effect that the I-94 expressway had on the Byrd property and the surrounding community.

Vice Chair Paas questioned whether the barn will be part of the Byrd Center Historic District. Further discussion and research are needed to determine if the barn is a contributing or non-contributing feature.

Vice Chair Paas questioned whether the ADA ramp on the north side of the house could be excluded. Ina suggested describing it as a non-contributing feature.

12.0 Next Meeting

7 September 2021 (Date & Time TBD)

13.0 Adjournment

Motion by Member LeClair, supported by Member Hunter to adjourn the meeting at 11:58 a.m.

MOTION CARRIED