
**PITTSFIELD CHARTER TOWNSHIP HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

November 2, 2022
Pittsfield Township Administration Building
6201 W. Michigan Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ferguson, LeClair, Paas, Scribner, Wall

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Commissioners Harwood and Richards

OTHERS PRESENT: None

1.0 Call Meeting to Order/Determination of a Quorum

Chair Wall called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

2.0 Roll Call

Members Present: Ferguson, LeClair, Paas, Scribner, Wall

Members Absent: Commissioners Harwood and Richards

3.0 Chair Wall led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4.0 Open Meetings Act/Public Comment

Under the Open Meetings Act, any person may come forward at this time to address the Commission. 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 Commissioner Ferguson, supported by Commissioner LeClair to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

6.0 Approval of Minutes for September 7, 2022

Motion by Vice Chair Paas, supported by Commissioner Ferguson to approve the minutes as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

7.0 Scheduled Guests

There are none.

8.0 Expenditures Report

Motion by Vice Chair Paas, supported by Commissioner Scribner to remit payment, in the amount of \$121.38, to MLive Media Group for the Public Hearing Notice (PHN) for the Byrd Center Historic District Study Committee Report.

MOTION CARRIED

9.0 Officer Report

9.1 Historic District Training Report September 28, 2022 – Paas/Wall

Chair Wall and Vice Chair Paas attended the Historic District Training meeting on September 28, 2022 in Livonia, Michigan. There was a presentation on various aspects of restoration and a discussion of the important elements and features of preservation. Chair Wall gave Historic District training manuals to the Commission.

Chair Wall requested archivist, Anne Simpson, to create a power point of Don LeClair's photos of the restoration of the Sutherland-Wilson barn and include photos of the restoration of the house and east porch. Chair Wall would like to have the power point presentation on the flat screen television in the Sutherland-Wilson home during open houses. Vice Chair Paas has drawings of the original floorplan version of the home that can be included in the power point presentation.

Chair Wall discussed upcoming events:

- 2023 - Bicentennial celebration in Ypsilanti – they have a planning committee and are looking for volunteers. Events are listed on their website, <https://cityofypsilanti.com/861/Bicentennial-Committee>
- 2024 - Pittsfield Township's 200th anniversary
- 2025 - Carpenter School 200th anniversary-First school at Platt & Packard

10.0 Old Business

10.1 Sutherland-Wilson House Update – Al Paas

Vice Chair Paas shared that the lilac bushes have been removed from the Sutherland-Wilson property. The bushes were not able to be saved and transplanted. Chair Wall requested to get a copy of the Certificate of Appropriateness to remove the lilac bushes.

The open houses held in conjunction with the art exhibit drew visitors to the Sutherland-Wilson home.

Chair Wall added that the Historical Society sent 17 invitations to the Township Administration to attend a special one hour session at the Sutherland-Wilson homestead on October 16, 2022 to see all of the improvements that have been made to the home. Three people from the Township Administration attended.

Vice Chair Paas reported that they are trying to give away the lumber that is stored in the carriage house, wood house, hog house, and other areas of the property. They need to do a major cleanup to get rid of the unusable items that are stored in the basement and the attics above the carriage house and old kitchen.

Vice Chair Paas is giving a tour of the Sutherland-Wilson home on Thursday, November 3, 2022, to Bob Gibbs, developer of Sutherland Plaza.

10.2 Byrd Center Public Hearing Report – Chair Wall

Chair Wall reported that the Public Hearing was held on October 11, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the Township Administration Building. The Byrd Center Historic District Study Committee received replies after the Preliminary Draft Report was sent to the stakeholders and other entities needing to receive and formally opine the Report. The Byrd Center Historic District Study Committee received responses from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Michigan Historical Commission, Washtenaw County Commission, and the Pittsfield Charter Township Planning Commission. The Township Board of Trustees received the Preliminary Report and had no comment. There was no one present from the public at the Public Hearing.

Ina Hanel-Gerdenich, Chair of the Byrd Center Historic District Study Committee, read the suggestions to the Report and has incorporated them into the Final Report. The Study Committee will meet via zoom on Monday, November 7, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. to vote to approve the Final Report. The Final Report will be presented to the Board of Trustees at the BOT meeting on December 14, 2022.

11.0 New Business

11.1 Change in Historic District Ordinance – Increase Historic District Commission from Seven (7) to Nine (9) Members

Chair Wall reported that Supervisor Grewal agreed to increase the Historic District Commission from seven (7) to nine (9) members. The Historic District Ordinance and bylaws have been amended to reflect this change. The first reading of the amended Ordinance #338 showing the increase of the Historic District Commission from seven (7) to nine (9) members took place at the Board of Trustees meeting on October 26, 2022. The second reading is an agenda item for the Board of Trustees meeting on November 9, 2022.

Chair Wall has submitted the names of two people to become members of the Historic District Commission, Susan McDowell and D.K. Donegan.

11.2 Change in Historic District Commission Bylaws – Scribner

Commissioner Scribner read the language that Attorney Mariah Fink suggested for Article IV, Section 4.1 of the bylaws.

The PCTHDC shall consist of the number of members required by the Pittsfield Charter Township Historic District Ordinance, as amended, each of whom resides in Pittsfield Charter Township.

Motion by Commissioner Scribner, supported by Vice Chair Paas to accept the language to Article IV, Section 4.1 of the amended Historic District Commission Statement of bylaws.

MOTION CARRIED

11.3 Calendar for 2023

February 1; April 5; May 3; June 7; September 6; November 1, 2023

Motion by Vice Chair Paas, supported by Commissioner Ferguson to approve the meeting calendar for 2023.

MOTION CARRIED

11.4 Next Meeting

01 February 2023, 5:30 p.m.

The election of officers will be an agenda item at the February meeting. Chair Wall suggested the Commission refresh their knowledge of the Statement of bylaws, Ordinances, and the Rehabilitation Act.

12.0 Adjournment

Motion by Vice Chair Paas, Supported by Commissioner LeClair to adjourn the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED