

**HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
CHERRY HILL SCHOOL
50040 Cherry Hill Road
Canton, MI 48188**

**MEETING MINUTES OF
August 7, 2019**

Roll Call:

Members Present: Scott Beutner, Dave Curtis, Steve Foley, JoAnn Dionne
Member Absent: Kathy Martin, Ralph Welton, Joan Lager
Staff Present: Gregg King
Guests: Nadia Causley, Ron Conner, Kelly Conner both Nu Vision Reality

Call to Order:

Once a quorum was assembled, Chairperson - Steve Foley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Foley, supported by Curtis to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by all members present.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Foley, supported by Beutner to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2019 Meeting. Motion carried by all members present.

Committee Reports:

I. Historical Society

Curtis discussed markings on the Cherry Hill House stairwell that showed that Abner Hitchcock had made regarding a trademark for a bed he had invented. Curtis asked if he could go into the basement to take pictures of the marking and was told by the owner that they would not allow that.

The Geddes Road historical marker is in production and the projected date of delivery is September 28 – October 10.

Curtis discussed an interview that he had done with Canton Cable on Wednesday and that the interview which was about the history and use of the Bartlett Travis House would be aired shortly on Canton Cable.

Brews Brats and Bands at the Barn is occurring Sept 7 this years. It is the Societies fund raiser and volunteer opportunities were discussed.

II. Buildings and Grounds

August 7, 2019

Staff distributed a rendering of a pavilion that Leisure Services is planning on installing at the Preservation Park property. A picture of that is included in the minutes. Also discussed was that a storm drain would be installed this year in the newly leveled parking area. The parking area is now ADA compliant gravel and has parking curbs to better direct a parking pattern. The installation of split rail fence between the curbs was discussed as well as other options to assist drivers in location of the parking curbs.

The condition of the Cherry Hill School sign and the Bartlett Travis House sign was discussed. A work order has been assigned to get the signs repainted and any rotted wood replaced.

III. Education

Staff distributed a three page paper that identified the Historic District Commission Mission Statement and Description of Duties. Staff asked that the commissioners consider the paper and it can be discussed at the next meeting. Dionne asked if this paper could be added to the website.

IV. Development

It appears that the Commercial building to the east of the District has begun and the housing to the east of that has begun as well. The Partnership for the Arts Ford Factory Complex is moving right along. Windows have been installed and the factory itself has a new roof and drywall walls in the interior. The Partnership is attempting to get customers for the building.

V. Legal

Nothing to report

Old Business:

I. HDC Photo Documentation / Project Update

Curtis stated that he had talked with Keith Butler regarding the use of cable staff to help document houses. Assessing is still working on getting the forms requested by Staff.

II. Lilley Road Bridge Update

Discussion was had regarding the construction of the new bridge. Canton Cable is taking drone photos of the construction daily so that they can put together a piece showing its construction

III. JoAnn Dionne has volunteered to be Commission Secretary

New Business:

August 7, 2019

I. COA for Partnership for the Arts – Cut Short Art Project

Discussion was had regarding the proposed memorial art project at the Partnership for the Arts Ford Factory Complex. Previous discussion amongst the commissioners had occurred through emails the week prior to this meeting. Included in the minutes is a copy of that power point. Staff checked with the Building Department to assure that the sign was consistent with the sign ordinance and it is. Staff, during the previous conversations with the artist, assured that the massing size and scale of the project was in line with the features of the site.

The following motion was made by Foley and seconded by Curtis:

“I make a motion to accept the design and approve the COA for the installation of the “Cut Short” veterans memorial as described in the attached Power Point Presentation, wherein a sign, previously approved by the building department, bench, flag pole and twenty one capped posts will be installed on the grounds of the Village Arts Factory. Relative to the Secretary of Interior Standards this exterior alteration does not destroy historic materials that characterize the property and is differentiated from the old. It is compatible with the massing, size, scale and architectural features of the site which will protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.”

Motion was seconded by Curtis and approved 4 yea, 0 nay, Motion approved

II. 50325 Cherry Hill – COA based on Township Building Assessment

Discussion was had regarding the COA which was submitted by Nadia Causley to remove the property from the Historic Ordinance. This request was due to the safety failures and the condition of the interior of the property that was brought to light when the Canton Township Building Department inspected the home and found many building code violations and deemed the building a dangerous building. Further, the building department recommended demolition. A copy of the inspection with pictures accompanies these minutes. Notice of a Dangerous Building was also issued by the Building Department and that is included in the minutes. Staff is working with Patty Esselink the Community Relations Officer for Canton Public Safety to arrange temporary housing for the family. The following motion was made by Foley.

“I make a motion to:

1. Approve the COA submitted for 50325 Cherry Hill to remove the address from the Canton Historic District Ordinance based upon the findings of the Canton Township Building Departments safety inspection that the structure “meets many sections of Chapter 78 for dangerous building,” and that the cost of repairs “would likely exceed value of the home” and that they “recommend demolition,”

2. To approve the formation of a study committee to pursue that removal,
3. To approve providing the owner Nadia Causley a notice to proceed for the demolition of that property based upon the findings of the inspection which is consistent with section 90-63 section f (1) which states that a notice to proceed shall be permitted if “The resource constitutes a hazard to the safety of the public or to the structure’s occupants.”

Motion was seconded by Dionne and approved 3yea, 0 nay, 1 abstain

Staff will form a subcommittee to proceed with the removal of the address from the Ordinance per established procedures and a Notice to Proceed will be generated so the unsafe structure can be demolished.

Adjourn:

Motion by Foley, supported by Curtis to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. Motion carried by all members present.