

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
Cherry Hill School
MEETING MINUTES OF
December 6, 2023

Members Present: Kathy Martin, Bill Tesen, Phyllis Redfern, Karen Krepps, Dave Curtis,
Jo Ann Dionne
Member Absent: None
Staff Present: Gloria Walker
Guests: Ellen Thomas, John LaFever, Jeanette Aiello, Gregg King

Call to Order:

Once a quorum was assembled, Chairperson Bill Tesen called the meeting to order at 7:01.p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Redfern, supported by Dionne to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried by all members present.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Redfern supported by Martin, to approve the minutes of August 2, 2023 carried.

Committee Reports:

I. Historical Society

Tesen reported that the barn was shut down for the winter. The Ghost stories program was a success. Max Rumbough has been appointed as a new board member as of January 2024. A second board member will need to be selected because Dave Curtis has decided not to run again. A planning calendar has been developed for next year's activities. Tesen will be stepping down as president and Kim Mabie will most likely become the new president.

II. Buildings and Grounds

See new business below.

III. Education

Dionne attended training by the National Association of Preservation Commissioners. The training was about reaching out to communities. There are recordings on their website that can be reviewed. Dionne suggested that the HDC submit information to the Canton Public Library's newsletter "spotlight" section. She also suggested that we submit information to the Michigan Archival Association for their newsletter "Spotlight" section. Both

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newsletters are sent out via email and reach an audience that the HDC is perhaps missing. The advantage to doing this would be to reach people that we might be missing.

IV. Development

Nothing to report.

V. Legal

Nothing to report.

VI. Staff Report

A Pilot program to use the school kitchen was considered. This would have entailed a coffee vendor using space for their business of selling coffee during the colder months of the year. It was decided that the school kitchen would not work out from a commercial standpoint. One of the reasons being lack of restroom facilities.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

I. Preservation Park Assessment

John LaFever and Jeanette Aiellon presented the information. John indicated that Jeanette is heading this project. Prior to this HDC meeting, the plan was provided to the Commissioners for review

The primary goal of the assessment plan was to lay out priorities for the care, maintenance and rehabilitation of structures and facilities on site. There has been a lack of attention given to the existing buildings for repair and maintenance.

The long term plan is to do the work listed in the Preservation Park report. A time table will be reported by Leisure Services to the Commission but work will start this winter.

The cost of replacing the barn is cost prohibitive currently, so instead the plan includes building a pavilion.

Commissioners pointed out that new enclosures for the dumpsters as well as a storage building are needed. These are not part of the Plan.

All assessment items presented in the Plan will be done by the fall of 2025, with some work being done in Spring of 2024.

The property across the road from the BT house has been sold and is expected to be developed. This might bring more attention to Preservation Park.

II. 2024 Meeting Dates:

February 7, April 3, June 5, August 7 (meeting may be held in the BT House), October 2, December 4

III. Officers for 2024

Appointments will be President, Vice President, Secretary:

As presented, Bill will be President, Joanne will be Vice President, and Karen will be Secretary

IV. Other

Dave Curtis presented that years ago it was discussed moving the historical society out of the Canton Center school house to Cherry Hill School.

Motion by, Redfern supported by Dionne to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. Motion carried by all members present.

Next regular meeting is planned for February 7, 2024. The meeting will be held at the Cherry Hill School.