

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
Bartlett Travis House
MEETING MINUTES OF
January 4, 2023

Roll Call:

Members Present: Kathy Martin, Bill Tesen, Phyllis Redfern, Karen Krepps, Dave Curtis,
Gregg King, Jo Ann Dionne

Member Absent: None

Staff Present: None

Guests: None

Call to Order:

Once a quorum was assembled, Chairperson Bill Tesen called the meeting to order at 7:02p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Redfern, supported by Martin to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2022 meeting. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

I. Historical Society

Discussion was had regarding the recent meeting where new Board members were appointed. Tesen indicated that the group is working on the upcoming display for the Museum which may be a story of how Henry Ford has impacted the community of Canton. There was also mention that the Societies Strategic Plan was near completion.

II. Buildings and Grounds

Nothing to report.

III. Education

King asked if members were receiving emails from different entities informing them of training opportunities and they said they were. Dionne asked if we could make sure that the Staff Liaison will always forward emails from the State Historic Preservation Office to the commission. King indicated that he would follow up with Thomas.

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- IV. Development
Nothing to report.
- V. Legal
Nothing to report.
- VI. Staff Report
Nothing to report.

Old Business:

- I. Discuss and vote 44765 Joy Road Certificate of Appropriateness

There was discussion about the request from Joe Van Esley to de-list the Joy Road property at 44765 Joy Road. Mr. Van Esley, in a letter dated December 6, 2022 indicated that he believed the procedure used to list his property was “defective.” King indicated that he had met with the Township Supervisor and attorney and that he had also had correspondence with Alan Higgins from the SHPO regarding this. It was discussed that under state law, Public Act 169 of 1970, which governs local historic district ordinances, there’s a specific process required to initiate or eliminate a historic district. The state law defines the three reasons under which a historic district could be eliminated.

The following points were discussed regarding the initial designation and the three conditions requisite for listing and de-listing.

The local legislative body appoints a Study Committee to list the property.

Upon requesting admission to the Historic Ordinance, a study committee was appointed, via Township Board Action, by the Board. It consisted of three Historic District Commissioners.

The Study Committee prepares a preliminary report of findings.

A copy of that preliminary report is on file. This report was done by the firm of Kosky and Glynn.

The preliminary report is transmitted to the local planning body, HDC the State Historic Preservation Review Board, and the Michigan Historical Commission for review.

A letter on file indicates that this was done.

A public hearing is held.

There are documents in the file to indicate that this was done.

The Study Committee prepares a final report based on feedback received on the preliminary report and the results of the public hearing.

There are documents in the file that indicate this was done.

The local legislative body takes action, as determined appropriate.

An RBA is on file and the request was approved by the Board.

Regarding the de-listing of a property the Study Commission must show that at least one of the three criteria identified in Public Act 169 has been met for elimination of the district. These criteria include:

The historic district has lost those physical characteristics that enabled establishment of the district.

Based on available information the Commission has found that the property has not changed.

The historic district was not significant in the way previously defined.

Based on the available information the Commission has found that the property has not changed.

The historic district was established pursuant to defective procedures.

Based on the review of all available data the Commission has determined that no defective procedure occurred during the listing of the property.

Through the discussion by the Commission and consistent with the Public Act 169 the Commission has determined that none of the three conditions for de-listing a property exist and that the initial process for listing the property was done consistent with Public Act 169. King then made the motion that based on the available information, the applicants request to de-list the "Penney House" at 44675 Joy Road be denied. The motion was seconded by Dionne. The vote was unanimous. King indicated that he would reach out to Ellen Thomas the Staff Liaison so she could contact Mr. Van Esely.

New Business:

I. Certificate of Appropriateness Application Discussion

None under general consideration.

II. Nomination of Commission Officers

The members discussed the positions and all agreed that Tesen would serve as commission Chair, Martin would serve as Commission Vice Chair and that King would serve as Secretary with help from Krepps.

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Motion by Dionne, supported by Martin to adjourn at 7:53 p.m. Motion carried by all members present.

Next regular meeting is planned for February 1. The meeting will be at the Cherry Hill School.