

Oakland County Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

7:00 pm, March 13, 2023

BOC Conference Room

- I. Meeting convened at: 7:06. Roll call: Jerry Murphy, Dave Decker, Jim Craft, Carol, George Milne, Guest: Rich Stamps, Stephanie Arwady, Dave Walls, Kathy Mutch, Rosie Richardson
- II. Approve Minutes from February 13, 2023: 1st Jerry, 2nd Dave, approved
- III. Additions to the agenda – n/a
- IV. New members: Kathy Mutch
- V. Presentation of Award of Appreciation – Rich Stamps
- VI. Old Business
 - a. Elections
 1. Chairperson – Jim Craft
 2. Treasurer – Rosie Richards (Jim will notify JoAnne Stringfellow)
 3. Asst Chair – Dave Decker
 - b. Preservation
 1. Preservation Committee
 1. Objectives?
 - a. Create a How-to Booklet
 - b. Identify and track At-Risk properties in Oakland County, could include a map component
 - c. Website additions for Preservation page(s)
 - d. Could include information on obtaining state/national historic markers, direct readers to MI SHPO
 - e. Could include “what not to do” (like waiting until the last minute to start a preservation effort, etc.), questions preservationists should ask about a property, preservation resource list (MHPN has a statewide version; we can pull Oakland Co. and other local contractors from this list to build ours; Barn Preservation Network also has a useful resource list to draw from), information on tax credits, grants, etc. available for preservation; could include contacts for document and artifact preservation, but not get into the details here
 2. 5 Members: Invite Ron Campbell; Dave Decker, Rosie, Carol (will co-chair with Ron), Kathy
 - c. Facebook password? Resolved; what content do we post – OCHC specific, or do we also share/repost local history events, as new content goes up on the website can be promoted on FB; Social Media – Steph, Dave, George; keep on agenda for next time to discuss how we want to use FB; feature different historical societies each month and repost their content-rich posts (Oakland Twp., Oxford)
 - d. “1857 Land ownership map”
 1. (Hess map # 6) – the copy previously stored at OU will be transferred to the Oakland History Center for storage; George has a tripod and good camera and could photograph this one to document its current condition; the Clements Library has a large flatbed scanner that might work, too (George has a contact who does map scans for Clark and Clements libraries). Try for a digital version of the best version of each Twp. to replace ones on maps that are missing or damaged – recreate the whole map digitally using photos of best parts of best maps
 2. Clarkston library copy for high resolution images; they are on board, we just need to schedule a time to photograph it. Dave Walls’s brother to take photos of each township? Dave W and Dave D to coordinate the photo shoot with Clarkston and Dave’s brother
 - e. 1820 Cass proclamation and photo to put in the County Executive office. It has been printed (2 pages), proclamation possibly with an image of Cass, put together all of them inside a frame, mount and give to County Executive Office; this might need to accompany an event or anniversary in order to make sense (originally supposed to be part of a bicentennial event that got cancelled) – table until County reaches out and asks for it
 - f. History Coalition Meeting – Tec Dave
 1. Results – 29 attendees; OCHC responsible to schedule Coalition meetings and set agendas and include local historical societies in our annual reports to the Board of Commissioners; this last meeting we were missing some big historical societies and might need to reach out directly to their representatives
 2. Discussion of Purpose

Oakland County Historical Commission Agenda

7:00 pm, January 9, 2023

3. Frequency/Next Meeting – aim for every other month; next meeting will be at Royal Oak, encourage people to come with just *one* important thing to share with the group; next meeting in May – possibly May 17 if that works for Royal Oak, give time of day options – Dave Decker to reach out to Royal Oak
- g. Local History Conference coming up March 24 & 25; Rosie, Jerry, Kathy, and Jim to attend; Jim will bring our Arsenal of Democracy poster and can print 11"x17" copies to hand out along with Parks handouts, 1877 booklet, etc.

VII. Committee reports

- a. Web site - Tec Dave, Stephanie, Jim – waiting for the platform switch to add content like Finding Aid and Calendar of historical events going on around the County (get submissions via Coalition); Resource Guides and How To's, Image Galleries, Links to Historical Societies; update our Contact Info on homepage
 - i. Status of County Site Migration
 - ii. To add:
 1. Finding Guide
 2. Calendar
- b. Local History as a subset of American History - Jim, Stephanie, Rosie
 - i. Poster Distribution: Plan for future distribution (38-40 of this round's posters have been distributed); next poster will go out in June
 - ii. Next poster, going out in June: Migration to Michigan: The Western New York Connection: Additional information can be made available using QRC that link back to longer write-ups on our website
 - iii. Third and Fourth Posters? Third – Sept 1; Fourth – Dec 1
- c. At Risk Properties
 - i. Rochester School – Jerry: building is still standing right now
 - ii. McMath Hulbert Observatory – Jim: Chris Ward is interested in talking with Observatory owner and Mike McGuinness; Jim has spoken to ISD to see if they are interested in educational opportunities associated with Observatory
 - iii. Pickering Barn (Franklin) opportunity – Carol: Franklin doesn't have a place for it, but Holly is interested in acquiring another barn and developer doesn't really want to take down a cool pre-1872 historic structure
- d. Historic house research guide - Carol, Tec Dave need to get together on this
- e. African American history - Rosie, Carol: UGRR group meeting next week
- f. Essay contest and time capsule- Rosie: Carol will put Rosie in touch with Superintendent for Oakland Schools

VIII. New Business

- IX. Confirm action items from today's meeting: everyone – what content we want on FB; Clarkston photo shoot to be scheduled; Coalition meeting to be scheduled (Dave D & Royal Oak); Dave and Dave to chat about box pics; Dave and George to meet re: mapping
- X. Next meeting: April 10, 2023

Meeting adjourned at 9pm.