
**PITTSFIELD CHARTER TOWNSHIP
BYRD CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

October 11, 2022
Pittsfield Township Administration Building
6201 W. Michigan Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

MEMBERS PRESENT: Hanel-Gerdenich, Hunter, Paas, Scribner, E. Wall, M. Wall

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Bonenberger, LeClair, Richards

OTHERS PRESENT:

1.0 Call Meeting to Order/Determination of a Quorum

Chair Hanel-Gerdenich called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

2.0 Roll Call

Members Present: Hanel-Gerdenich, Hunter, Paas, Scribner, E. Wall, M. Wall

Members Absent: Bonenberger, LeClair, Richards

3.0 Chair Hanel-Gerdenich led the Committee in a moment of silence for those who have lost their lives to COVID-19 and for all of those in need.

4.0 Approval of Agenda

Motion by Member Scribner, supported by Member Hunter to approve the agenda as amended. Added Items: 7.0 Stakeholder Comments on the Draft Report, and 8.0 Discussion of Next Meeting Date. Adjournment was renumbered to 9.0

MOTION CARRIED

5.0 Public Hearing: David R. Byrd Center and Wilsey-Sperry-Nelson Farm Historic District

6.0 Public Comment

None

7.0 Stakeholder Comments on the Draft Report

The Byrd Center Preliminary Report was sent out to designated stakeholders in July/August 2022 and to date we have received the following feedback.

- 1). Letter replies from the State Historic Preservation Office and the Michigan Historical Commission were positive. The SHPO and MHC indicated that the Period of Significance should reflect the buildings present on the property. Thus, they suggest the starting date for the Period of Significance should be 1839 when Moses Wilsey received the property since there are no buildings present prior to that time. They also feel that the property meets Criteria C of the National Register of Historic Places (Architecture). The African-American connection should be recognized under Criteria A – Ethnic Subcategory.
- 2). The Washtenaw County Historic District Commission was also supportive of the Report. In addition, it supports the idea of considering the expansion of the Historic District to include Dr. Byrd’s Church building sometime in the future.
- 3). As indicated in the letter from SHPO, the State Historic Review Board had no comments.
- 4). The Pittsfield Township Planning Commission voted to endorse the Report’s recommendations on September 1, 2022. The minutes (<https://www.pittsfield-mi.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/7044>) indicate that there was discussion on the ownership of the property, maintenance issues, and landscaping (unspecified). Al Paas and Mary Ellen Wall attended the meeting.
- 5). The Township Board of Trustees had no comments. Thanks to Al Paas and Mary Ellen Wall, who also attended this meeting, which was held on August 10, 2022.

8.0 Next Meeting

The date for the next meeting to address the comments and view the changes in the Report is set for either November 1, 2022 or November 7, 2022, depending on committee members' availability. The meeting will be held via Zoom.

9.0 Adjournment

Motion by Vice Chair Paas, Supported by Member M. Wall to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED