

**Village of Franklin
Historic District Commission
Regular Meeting
Wednesday November 6, 2019 7:00 P.M.
At the Franklin Village Hall – Broughton House
32325 Franklin Road, Franklin, Michigan**

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Historic District Commission was called to order by Gary Roberts, Chairman at the Franklin Village Hall – Broughton House, 32325 Franklin Road, Franklin, MI at 7:04 P.M.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Eileen Harryvan Alek Kokoszka, Gary Roberts, Gayle Timmis, Jill Wilke, Laura Witty
Absent: Mike Brassfield
Also Present: Bill Dinnan, Building Official; Eileen Pulker, Village Clerk; Fred Gallasch and Bill Lamott, Village Council Trustees

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Timmis, seconded by Witty to approve the agenda, as presented.

**Ayes: Harryvan, Kokoszka, Roberts, Timmis, Wilke, Witty
Nays: None
Absent: Brassfield
Motion carried.**

IV. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting of October 2, 2019

Motion by Timmis, seconded by Kokoszka to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 2, 2019, as presented.

**Ayes: Harryvan, Kokoszka, Roberts, Timmis, Wilke, Witty
Nays: None
Absent: Brassfield
Motion carried.**

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public was present; no comments were made at this time.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consider an application for a Sign at the Franklin Cemetery.

Steve Bancroft, Administrator of the Franklin Cemetery, introduced the proposal, including the possible location of the cemetery sign and referred to the mock-up picture, which had been attached to the Sign Application. He further detailed the specs of the sign as written in the 11/6/2019 email from JJ Zielinski to Doreen Martin. As background, Bancroft answered questions, such as: Was this a functional cemetery or an historic site? Does one have to be a Franklin resident to be buried here? Were there any religious restrictions? Four years ago, there

had been a mailing to every household in Franklin, Bingham Farms, and Bloomfield Township answering those questions and how things functioned. Even though a website had been created a year ago, the Cemetery Association felt it was one thing to have a website and a different issue to get people to go to it for information. Thus, the Cemetery Board proposed a visible double-sided sign, the construction and layout of which would be similar to that of the Jacqueline Drake Gallery sign, with all the pertinent information.

The location of the sign was proposed to be at the corner of Franklin Road and Scenic Drive, 5 ft. from both fences.

Bill Lamott, Scenic Drive, disagreed with Bancroft's proposal. He felt the sign was more than what was needed: too big, too "flashy". He would like to see one located near the gate, which was simpler and smaller in design and gave an example of possible wording. He did not think the proposed sign was respectful of the location and felt this was not a place for humor. He understood the need to publicize and celebrate the cemetery; however, there needed to be a better way.

Roberts inquired if Bancroft would be willing to work with HDC, the Historic Society, and others to come up with a solution to this. He understood what the Cemetery Board wanted to do but the concept of it was disturbing to him as it detracted from the reverence one should have for the cemetery and its historic character that the Village has.

Recognizing that the Cider Mill and the Cemetery were the bookends of the Village, Witty felt there were better choices to get the message out. Bancroft stated that the majority of the cemetery's sales were not from Franklin residents, less than 10%, and answering Witty's inquiry, he opined that interest and sales were by word of mouth. He mentioned that some of the obstacles were with the funeral homes and gave examples. He also pointed out that in 1974 the Cemetery took action to find out how it could make sure there was enough money to maintain itself at its current level and its beauty when there were no more gravesites left to sell. This was currently a big concern and he expounded on the Cemetery Board's recent activities and proposals with the Village. Supporting his statements, he gave examples of the hardships nearby cemeteries were experiencing. He also added the Board's financial concerns about the deteriorating condition of the cemetery fencing and the cost of replacement or repair. Bottom line, the cemetery needed to do something to increase its sales.

Timmis acknowledged the Cemetery's concern and argument for a sign but she felt this was not it. She felt that a sign, which was more fitting with the character of the Village, would be more appropriate and could accomplish the cemetery's purpose.

There was a general discussion about the purposes of a sign and its possible verbiage. It was agreed that more research was needed.

Motion by Witty, seconded by Wilke to postpone the Application, dated September 19, 2019, to consider a Sign at the Franklin Cemetery, until the issue could be further researched with other stakeholders.

Ayes: Harryvan, Kokoszka, Roberts, Timmis, Wilke, Witty

Nays: None

Absent: Brassfield

Motion carried.

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Report on Historic Study Committee Progress.

Roberts reported that the committee has not met. Davis was beginning to do the research in photography for the application on all the structures on the list. The draft language may be available at the next meeting.

The open issue of the FCA agreeing to the title search was still unresolved.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Timmis, seconded by Witty to adjourn the meeting.

Motion was approved unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 P.M.

Submitted,

Gail Beke, Recording Secretary

Eileen H. Pulker, Clerk