

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BROWNSTOWN
BEAUTIFICATION / HISTORICAL COMMISSION
AUGUST 16, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Charter Township of Brownstown Beautification / Historical Commission was held at the Brownstown Township Hall, 21313 Telegraph Road, on Tuesday, August 16, 2011. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Pfau at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Pfau, Golovich, Machinski, Sheldon, Szymanski, Walters, and Whitecotton. Also in attendance was Recreation Director Maxe

ABSENT AND EXCUSED: None

MINUTE APPROVAL: Motion of Sheldon, supported by Szymanski, to approve the Beautification / Historical Commission minutes of June 21, 2011 as submitted. All voting aye.

AGENDA APPROVAL: Motion of Golovich, supported by Sheldon, to approve the Beautification / Historical Commission agenda of August 16, 2011 as submitted. All voting aye.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY REPORT: Machinski reported that due to lack of quorums and vacations there have not been any Historical Society meetings in the last two months. They have been trying to run the museum open house on Farmers Market days, but it has been difficult. Richard Smith offered to staff the museum open houses during the Farmers Market event until it ends September 27th. He reported that they have also been giving tours of the Community Garden at the same time. The giant pumpkin being grown has reached 333 pounds and is expected to be bigger than last year's. He hopes to offer it to the Township for display again. Because of all the rain this year, wood chips have been placed around the garden in the wet areas. Smith requested the grass cutters be asked to cut the area surrounding the garden better and neaten it up a bit. Otherwise, he is very happy with the garden's success.

There have been some volunteers who have been landscaping and cleaning around the museum and Smith wanted to send a special thanks to them for all their efforts. Pfau suggested sending thank you letters to them when the season ends and also to Bear Claw Coffee for their donations of used coffee grounds being used in the garden.

GARDEN PROJECT: Whitecotton reported that with the recent rain, heat, and humidity, some have had difficulty with their gardens. The Township has brought in wood chips to help with all the mud. He wanted to send a special thank you also to the previous volunteer for all her help in the pantry gardens. Some days she is out there all day weeding and cleaning. A very positive meeting was held with DDA representatives on July 6 regarding the community garden plans for the campus renovations and the need for the new garden area to be ready for spring planting.

Maxe responded that the garden plans have been revised. There will be two garden spots, one traditional garden and one raised bed. A new recommendation was sent over to DiSanto last week and Maxe expects an answer from him soon.

Smith explained why the garden plans were changed. The new site is directly behind the police station near the driveway and was selected because of better drainage and soil type. The current

garden area does not drain well, which is why the wood chips were needed. There will be more visibility at the new location with lots of extra space for expansion in future years. He is trying to get the new garden area prepared before winter so as soon as spring arrives planting can begin right away. Whitecotton reported that over 54 pounds of their grown produce has been donated to the Fishes and Loaves food pantry already this year.

CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT PLANS: The plans are moving forward; most of the paths are poured and the concrete work for the dog park is complete. The steel is going up on the new maintenance building now. Phase I completion expected by mid-October then on to Phase II which has begun and plans for the playgrounds and splash park are being reviewed. The old bus garage will be demolished about 30 days after the new building is finished. Three large project information signs have been placed around the campus to show people what is going on. They have generated lots of questions and interest.

2011 PROJECTS: Maxe mentioned the Township sign at the south end on Huron River Drive has gotten very weedy. The Gibraltar Road sign has so many plants that it is hard to see the weeds, but there are a lot there also. Golovich announced that his son has volunteered to go out this weekend to clean up the weeds as his Boy Scout project. The Brownstown Firefighters are doing a great job maintaining the Sibley Road sign they adopted.

Sheldon would still like to see the Garden walk project happen. She has been checking on how other communities hold their events. This can be looked into for next year after the Farmers Market ends.

OTHER BUSINESS: Pfau tried to contact Leonard in Trenton to find out the reasons for the award application disqualification so it could be done correctly in the future but she has not been able to reach him.

OPEN DISCUSSION: None

ADJOURNMENT: Motion of Whitecotton, supported by Sheldon, to adjourn the Beautification / Historical Commission meeting at 7:32 p.m.

smk/beauthist081611