

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BROWNSTOWN
BEAUTIFICATION / HISTORICAL COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 20, 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, September 20, 2011. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Pfau at 7:02 p.m.

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

ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Golovich

MINUTE APPROVAL: Motion of Machinski, supported by Whitecotton, to approve the Beautification / Historical Commission minutes of August 16, 2011 as submitted. All present voting aye.

AGENDA APPROVAL: Motion of Sheldon, supported by Walters, to approve the Beautification / Historical Commission agenda of September 20, 2011 as submitted. All present voting aye.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY REPORT: Machinski reported that there still has not been a meeting due to lack of quorums but they are keeping the museum open and offering tours on Tuesdays during the Farmers Market. The Society hosted a reunion at the museum for the family of Muriel Drouillard, a former Dushesne who grew up in the house after it was built in 1916. About 60 family members attended the party in her honor touring the museum and taking group photos. They were all very pleased with the museum renovations; it was a wonderful event. Pfau said she can assist at the museum next Tuesday at 2:00 p.m.

The Farmers Market has been a good event but Maxe thinks it should start a little later in the summer to have fresh grown produce available for purchase. Sheldon suggested that we need more of a draw, maybe some crafters. Pfau thinks it is a good project and wants to continue the event for next year. Maxe would like to see more commitment from the vendors and will look into the Township managing the event instead of the agency next year. There is support and demand for this event and it should grow.

GARDEN PROJECT: Maxe received information yesterday from Wade Trim on next year's garden and has talked with Assistant DDA Director Campbell. The area behind the police station is Township land and is available and useable. The area south of that is designated as wetlands and owned by Boller Meadows and cannot be disturbed. Approximate size of the new area is 400 feet by 50 feet which should be plenty of room and the ground should be workable.

Whitecotton informed members that the existing garden is waning. The experimental gardens were mostly successful this year. The squirrels really liked the Indian corn. The giant pumpkin has reached 351 pounds and is just about finished growing. He would like see more organization and discussion with the DDA about the details of the new garden. The old garden should be

cleaned up by the end of the month and the new area should begin to be prepared by then also. The Garden Club has agreed on a group project to design a plan to surround the museum with heritage plantings to submit for review and approval.

Richard Smith reported that 154 pounds of food was donated from the community gardens to Fish and Loaves, a Gleaners food program and he suggested thanking the volunteers who helped in the garden. Sheldon was asked to send a letter to commend the efforts of the Garden Club members for their work in the Community Garden this year.

CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT PLANS: Phase II plans are moving along. Maxe will be meeting with Wade Trim on Monday. Next will be a joint meeting with the DDA, Recreation and Beautification/Historical Commissions, then the project will be bid. Construction could begin in November depending on the weather. After some delays, progress is being made on the new Recreation storage building.

Machinski wanted to say that she thought the memorial wall will be too obtrusive and does not think its location in front of the event barn is a good place for it and asked why is it not being placed near the Police Station. She asked if she could speak with Public Safety Director Sclater and investigate the details of the memorial and who they plan to pay tribute to. Maxe will e-mail the information he has received regarding the memorial to members.

R. Smith, 24781 Pamela, stated his objection to the current memorial wall plans as they have been developed.

Motion of Pfau, supported by Sheldon, to approve Machinski to pursue the design, size, location in reference to the event barn and the method for choosing honorees of the planned memorial wall and bring the information back to members for review. All present voting aye.

2011 PROJECTS: Member Golovich's son for his boy scout project did a very nice job on the Huron River Drive entry sign and it looks good. The sign on Gibraltar Road needs trimming and weeding.

OTHER BUSINESS: Pfau still has not been able to reach Leonard in Trenton to find out the reasons for the award application disqualification. She reported that a husband and his wife were the winners of the BCSEM "Individual" Service Award for their work on children's garden and she heard there was a second award winner this year also. Pfau will question this at the next BCSEM meeting.

Sheldon to prepare a letter of thank you to Bear Claw Coffee for their donation of coffee grounds to the Community Garden.

OPEN DISCUSSION: Smith hopes to display the giant pumpkin at the last Farmers Market then move it in front of the Community Center for display.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion of Szymanski, supported by Whitecotton, to adjourn the Beautification / Historical Commission meeting at 7:52 p.m. All present voting aye.