

MEETING MINUTES
FARMINGTON HILLS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
City of Farmington Hills
Heritage and History Center
June 24, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
www.fhgov.com
248-871-2540

1. Commissioner Willyard called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT: Earl Baxtresser, John Scott, John Willyard, Joe Derek

Steve Hanley.

MEMBERS ABSENT: James Hulett

LIAISON TO HERITAGE & HISTORY MUSEUM: Brian Golden was absent.

LIAISON FROM CITY: Absent

OTHERS PRESENT: None

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOTION by Baxtresser, supported by Scott, to approve the agenda as published.
Motion carried 5-0.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Scott, supported by Willyard, to accept the minutes of May 27, 2026.
Motion carried 5-0.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A.** Museum Accession/De-Accession Reviews: Liaison Mellem accepted the donation of a bottle from the Former LaSalle Winery and presented it to the FHHC.

Motion by Baxtresser, supported by Scott, to accept the LaSalle Winery Bottle into the collection.

Motion carried, 5-0.

- B.** Museum Improvement – Discussion continues of possible new locations for the Heritage and History Center collection. Golden has expressed concern for the collection currently held at the Palmer Sherman House. There appears to be a continuing animal infestation problem inside the building. Possible storage solutions were discussed.

C. Historical Markers-

1. Palmer Sherman: The Palmer Sherman Historical Marker was installed last month. This issue is now closed.
2. Boys Republic- Charmaine Schmult sent an email to Scott and Baxtresser about continuing developments at the Boys Republic site.
3. Power's Station: Closing issue.
4. "QR" Codes: On hold.

D. Publications –None

E. America 250MI Event:

- a. Golden left a request for possible readers of the Declaration of Independence at the North Farmington Cemetery on July 8th at 6:00 pm. John Scott said he could read a portion, and Willyard, Derek, and Hanley were maybes.

5. NEW BUSINESS: None

7. POINTS OF INTEREST: Willyard brought a sample of an early 1800s drink, mentioned in Farmington History. He and his wife were trying to replicate this from recently obtained recipes. The sample of "Tansey Bitters" had not reached its full fermentation at this time, and he will share the finished product at the next meeting

8. CORRESPONDENCE: Emails from Liaison Mellum concerning:
The LaSalle Wine bottle.
Information about the reading of the Declaration of Independence at the June 25,
Celebration at Founders Park, separate from the North Farmington Cemetery reading on July 8, 2026.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

10. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: Steve Hanley shared a 1952 photo of the "Crippled Children's Hospital in Farmington, which he had recently acquired. Research ongoing.

11. LIAISON ACTION ITEMS: Follow-up on potential future building location for the Heritage and History Center, or possible storage locations for the collection.

12. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:33

NEXT MEETING: September 23, 2026, at **7:00** pm at the Heritage and History Center,

Heritage Park, Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. Michigan 48336

Respectfully Submitted,
Earl Baxtresser,
Recording and Corresponding Secretary