MEETING MINUTES APPROVED
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
August 12, 2026 @ 6:30 P.M.
FARMINGTON HILLS CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
31555 W. ELEVEN MILE ROAD, FARMINGTON HILLS, MICHIGAN 48336
www.fhgov.com

1. Meeting called to order at 6:34 pm
2. Roll Call
   Members Present: Emily Howard, Ken Klemmer, Steve Olson, Jim Paulson, Alec Thomson, Marleen Tulas
   Members Absent: John Trafelet
   Others Present: Kirsten Mellem (HDC Staff Liaison, Planning & Community Development)
3. Approval of Agenda
   Motion to approve agenda by Klemmer, supported by Tulas. Motion carried 6-0.
4. Unfinished Business
   Gates House Marker. Klemmer reported that the marker cannot be repaired by a welder. Condo complex not filing insurance claim as deductible is high. Discussion followed: noted considerable cost for replacement, uncertainty of who owns the markers once installed, and who is responsible for repairs. (HDC has previously paid for repainting of weathered markers). Liaison Mellem to consult with city attorney for clarification of ownership and responsibility for the markers once installed.
5. New Business
   Alec to draft letter of thanks to John Seymour & Adele Rapport for hosting the HDC at the Lemuel Botsford house for a tour of the property.
6. Committees
   Cemetery Restoration
   Olson reported that recent repairs to Utley have been very good, transformational. Two (2) large markers remain down and encased in concrete; will try to raise in the fall. A very few markers, perhaps 5-6, in both Utley and West, remain but are badly 'sugared' and beyond preservation.
   Next cemetery projects:
   Brownell family plot: has deteriorated iron fencing and concrete posts. Photos shared; Klemmer to review and help prepare plan / RFP. Issue
   Utley Footstones: a collection of 22 footstones is currently in storage in the Utley shed. Olson to share info with Thomson, who may be able to incorporate in a fall project with his students at Schoolcraft College (match initials-only footstones with families buried at Utley).
7. Points of Interest/Updates
   A. Public Engagement Events
      Annual Open House: Tula's efforts to reach owners of Drake house have been futile; Klemmer to follow up.
      Heritage Night September 18: Klemmer and Thomson to provide tours of Spicer House. Howard to provide display items.
   - 200th Anniversary of Millers Cottage and Philbrick Tavern
     Proclamation and House Plaques: Thomson to draft proclamation verbiage for review at future meeting. Agreed that plaques should be simple, include property name, date, and reference Farmington Hills Historic District (no reference to Bicentennial /

200 years). Modest size (i.e., 5”x7” or 8”x10”), brass (passing discussion of 3D printing option). Anniversaries will occur in 2027, allowing time for finalizing and scheduling presentation at a City Council mtg.

8. Correspondence

   Liaison Mellen shared photos of HDC properties from an elementary school project c1994 provided by Barb Smrtka. Photos to be dated on the reverse and added to associated property files.

9. Public Comment

   None

10. Commissioner Comments
11. Staff Comments
    A. Property Status Spreadsheet: updated sheet shared; column for marker status to be added (i.e., note damage, need for repainting).
12. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings
    A. July 8, 2026 – Minor changes noted. Motion Klemmer, 2nd Paulson, approved 6-0

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Drafted by Steve Olson, HDC Secretary.