

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES APPROVED
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
September 16, 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 6:32 pm

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Alec Thomson, Jim Paulson, Ken Klemmer, Marleen Tulas

Members Absent: Steve Olson, John Traftlet, Emily Howard

Others Present: Staff Liaison Kirsten Mellem, City Council Liaison Valerie Knol

3. Approval of Agenda

Approved by Klemmer, seconded by Paulson. Voice vote motion passed.

4. Unfinished Business

None

5. New Business

A. Certificate of Appropriateness 26-3

HD Site: #310 – Ward Eagle House

Location: 29645 Fourteen Mile Rd

Applicant: Janet Wyne with Philips Sign & Lighting, Inc. on behalf of Corewell Health

Owner: Eagle Medical Properties, LLC

Proposal: Installation of two (2) directional ground signs within 100 ft. of the historic buildings (house and barn).

Discussion regarding the location of the sign and proximity to the historic home and barn. Further discussion of the existing historic business sign and historical marker upkeep. New signage is proposed for the Corewell facility. Klemmer moved that the signage plan as presentable was acceptable, citing Secretary of the Interior standard #2. Paulson seconded. Voice vote motion passed.

6. Committees

A. Cemetery Restoration

No report due to Traftlet and Olson absence.

Thomson noted that his class will be visiting Utley Cemetery this semester for the purpose of doing data gathering and records matching. They will work on matching the footstone pieces to headstones in Utley.

B. Potential Historic Resources

Liaison Mellem to reach out to the 21515 Farmington Rd. owner to get an update on the property that came before the Commission in July.

7. Points of Interest/Updates

A. Public Engagement Events

- i. Heritage Night – September 18th. Thomson, Tulas, Howard and Klemmer plan to attend and bring materials/artifacts for display and discussion.

- ii. Annual Open House – Too close to September 18th event, so not going to staff a table.
- B. 200th Anniversary of Miller’s Cottage and Philbrick Tavern
 - i. Proclamation and House Plaques: Wording for proclamations were reviewed with minor revisions. Plan to present during May 2027 to coincide with National Historic Preservation Month. Liaison Mellem to send sketch of proposed plaque to vendors to get preliminary pricing. Liaison Mellem to coordinate with Clerk’s office regarding proclamation dates and Owner’s of properties to be recognized.
- 8. Correspondence
 - None
- 9. Public Comment
 - None
- 10. Commissioner Comments
 - A. Discussion with Corewell representative regarding the future of Botsford Inn, offering some potential uses, and connecting them with state preservation resources.
 - B. General comment that the Sleepy Hollow Eagle Scout project is complete and looks great.
 - C. Tulas noted Carl Censoni revised number; Klemmer to call again for potential HDC event.
 - D. Damaged sign for Gates House discussed. Liaison Mellem to verify current pricing.
- 11. Staff Comments
 - A. Project Updates. Site walk of demo conditions at Sarah Fisher needed. Olson, Klemmer, and Paulson to coordinate date. Liaison Mellem to coordinate with developer for site visit.
- 12. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - A. August 12, 2026 – no changes. Motion by Paulson, 2nd by Klemmer. Voice vote motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Drafted by Kenneth Klemmer, Acting Secretary