

MEETING MINUTES  
FARMINGTON HILLS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
City of Farmington Hills  
The Heritage and History Center  
December 3, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.  
[www.fhgov.com](http://www.fhgov.com)  
248-871-2540

**1. Chairman Hulett called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m.**

**2. MEMBERS PRESENT:** James Hulett, John Willyard, John Scott, Earl Baxtresser, Joe Derek,  
Eli Levsky.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

LIAISON FROM CITY: Absent

OTHER PRESENT: None

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**MOTION by Baxtresser, supported by Willyard, to approve the agenda as published.**  
**Motion carried 6-0.**

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION by Willyard, supported by Derek, to accept the minutes of October 22, 2025.**  
**Motion carried 5-0.**

**5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- A.** Museum Accession/De-Accession Reviews: Golden gifted to the H&HC, a two-volume set: Ft. Pontchartrain at Detroit, by Timothy Kent.

**MOTION by Baxtresser, supported by Willyard, to accept these items into the collection.**  
**Motion carried 6-0.**

- B.** Museum Improvement- Spicer House Move:

- a. The group discussed not receiving a response from the Special Services Department regarding the relocation of the H&HC to the Spicer House, especially about a letter that was recently sent to Bryan Farmer.
- b. It was agreed that Golden would reach out to Bryan Farmer, and Baxtresser would reach out to Carol Egbo.

**C. Historical Markers-**

1. Palmer Sherman: Baxtresser shared the FHHC's desired location for this marker with Diane Mulville-Friel. She said she would pass this information on to the other stakeholders.
2. Boys Republic- Baxtresser shared information about reaching out to Diane Mulville-Friel and Charmaine Kettler-Schmult about locating this marker on private property. The lack of response was concerning.
3. Power's Station: Ongoing.
4. "QR" Codes: On hold.

**D. Publications –**

- a. Universalist Unitarian Church monograph, ongoing.

**6. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A.** Golden suggested that the FHHC explore the possibility of purchasing one of the Underground Railroad display banners (3' x 6') for use in the displays at the Spicer House.

**MOTION by Baxtresser, supported by Willyard, to have Brian Golden purchase a Farmington Underground Railroad Banner for the FHHC for a cost of no more than \$ 500.00**

**Motion carried 6-0.**

- B.** Hulett shared his research using Gemini AI to transcribe his grandfather's handwritten letters written during World War I. Transcriptions were accurate, dated, ordered chronologically, and added further analysis.
- C.** Willyard shared with the Commissioners a recent addition to his collection: a "Model 1803 Harpers Ferry Rifle". Willyard gave the Commissioners a detailed presentation on Model 1803 with photographic details depicting how this particular rifle, after over 200 years, is in an almost 100% original condition, attributing to its profound rarity.
- D.** Baxtresser shared with the Commissioners a small map of the state of Michigan he made depicting the Base Line and Meridian Surveys, which started in 1815.

**7. POINTS OF INTEREST:** Hulett welcomed our recent addition to Farmington Hills Historical Commission Eli Levsky. Mr. Levsky previously lived in Chicago.

**8. CORRESPONDENCE:** Emailed letter to Bran Farmer, emailed letter to Diane Mulville-Friel, and an emailed letter to Charmaine Kettler-Schmult.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

**10. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:** Because of the snowy weather, it was noted that the November meeting, which is usually pushed to December, will take place at City Hall in 2026.

**11. LIAISON ACTION ITEMS:**

- a. Further discussion with Diane Mulville-Friel for the Boys Republic Historic Marker.
- b. Status of move to Spicer House.

**12. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:40

**NEXT MEETING:** January 28, 2026, at **7:00** pm in the Community Room of City Hall,  
3155 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan 48336

Respectfully Submitted,  
Earl Baxtresser,  
Recording and Corresponding Secretary