

**Milford Historical Society
Pettibone Creek Hydroelectric Station Restoration Committee
Minutes, March 11, 2008**

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www.milfordhistory.org

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Present: Suzanne Bailey, Dennis Bowman, Paul Braun, Myles Davis, Gregory Dobson,
Richard Harrison, Dorothy Kane, James Reiter, Judith Reiter, Glenn Rittenger, Bill
Stockhausen, Jeff Williams

Meeting called to order 7:30 PM

Review of Minutes: No comments

<u>Village: "Ford Powerhouse Restoration"</u>	(1/31/087) \$30,762.24
<u>MHS Account:</u>	
Current Balance (02/28.08)	\$ 6,610.32
Previous reported balance (11/31/08):	\$ 6,130.65
Income: Interest: \$18.67; Bricks: \$100.00; T-shirts: \$10.00; Calendar: \$11.00; Milford Memories Donation: \$840.00	
Expenses: MotorCities Sign: \$400.00; VI Brochure/map printing: \$100.00	
<u>Budgeted Commitments:</u>	
General expenses	\$ 1,000
Paint-a-tile installation	\$ 1,000
Buy-a-brick purchase & installation	\$?
Donor Recognition Sign	\$ 2,000
Milford Garden Club (hardscape item – bench?)	\$ 1,000

Committee Reports

Construction - Glenn Rittenger, chair

- Interior Electrical:
 - **Rittenger moved, Bailey seconded** to work with the Village in seeking bids for the interior electrical work as submitted in drawings updated by Glenn. **Motion carried.**
 - Richard Harrison was successful in obtaining \$100 merchandise certificate from Home Depot. He will continue to solicit donations of materials and supplies. E-PowerPlus was suggested as a possible source.
- Heating:
 - Harrison and Rittenger met with Mike and Robert Matheson to discuss "geo thermal" option for heating and cooling the building. Mike and Robert "recommended the most economical way of air conditioning the building would be natural gas. Following it then Glenn and Richard thought it would be best to pursue the idea." Harrison will contact MichCon for another estimate for installation of a gas line to the Powerhouse
- Humidity:
 - Myles Davis' efforts to reduce humidity in the building by sealing openings in the pipes have shown positive results.
- Guardrail:
 - **Rittenger moved, Bailey seconded** to have Glenn prepare drawings for guardrail installation in the lower level around the "pit" and off the back of the building to be submitted for competitive bidding. **Motion carried.**
- Exterior Electrical:

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- **Rittenger moved, Bailey seconded** to proceed with the installation of the underground electrical service to the Powerhouse. **Motion carried.** Richard will follow up with DTE and discussions with Village officials – DPS director Calley and Village manager, Schufflebarger. (Follow-up report below)

Hydroelectric Power Bill Stockhausen, chair

- Because we had heard that the Henry Ford Fairlane Estate Powerhouse on the University of Michigan-Dearborn campus was generating and that they did not have to file for a FERC license we decided it was worthwhile to find the details of that arrangement. So Bill and Jeff Williams visited the powerhouse and talked to the staff on January 15, 2008. There are two 55 kW DC hydro-generators and a steam unit along with open slate switchboards that are all original equipment installed about 1917. This facility is only one of several of the Ford hydro plants that has the original equipment and is well worth seeing. There is a very educational “hands-on” hydro interpretive display at the powerhouse, also.
- They are currently running the west generator and feed the DC current into a motor-generator set in an adjoining room that allows them to offset the electricity use at the estate. This equipment was installed in the 1990s and consists of a 100hp DC motor mechanically connected to an AC induction generator with associated controls.
- The Director of Facilities Management, Larry Hicks, was able to find the paperwork records. With Congressman John Dingell’s guidance UM-D filed a Declaration of Intention in Dec, 1991, which resulted in a FERC Order that issued in Feb, 1993, stating that because there was no post-1935 construction there was no requirement for licensing.
- Due to the original equipment having been removed from the Pettibone Powerhouse and the FERC already ruling that a license will be required, Pettibone will have to file for a license or exemption. Talks with the MDNR will resume this summer and pick up where we left off last summer to determine minimum stream flow for the bypass stream. Once we have some guidelines on that we can make a determination of equipment sizing and hydro rehab feasibility.

Building Use - Myles Davis

- Greg Dobson continues to pursue a key DTE Energy contact to possibly use the Powerhouse as a showcase for alternative energy solutions using water power and possibly an interpretive center for other forms of alternative energy such as wind power DTE is already engaged in. Since DTE serves this area, it would be very doable to produced power at the Milford location and feed it back to the grid.
- Several activities related to the History Channel Grant have been scheduled, including student visits, a book signing, display of student art work, coordination with Earth Day event (Sunday, April 20) and a Gala event celebrating the completion of the grant project (Thursday, June 5).
- Myles will schedule summer open houses to coordinate with Concert in the Parks, will secure docents and clean up of the building.
- Jim Reiter will research procedure and permits required for rental/use of the facility for private parties, weddings, showers, etc.
- A list of dates the building will be in use will be posted on the Powerhouse website.

Funding

- Tourism Cares Grant request for interior electrical funding denied.

Funding raising – Rich Harrison

- Donor list for brick pavers is available for future contacts
- The Powerhouse committee roster was passed around for updates.

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MotorCities/ANHA:

- Thrills of Mills, a map/brochure highlighting 10 Village Industry sites is about to go to printing
- The MotorCities supported interpretive sign to be installed in Central Park is in the mock-up production phase. A draft panel should be available for display and comment in May.

Education

- History Channel grant:
 - An update from Dorothy Kane as submitted: See ******Dorothy Kane Report 03/11/08** below.
- Jth presented E-mail regarding installing wind generators on the Powerhouse site and an offer to be part of “effort to create real world and hands on learning environments.” No action taken.

PR/Publicity - Paul Braun

- Web site
 - Erica Pearson, an EMU graduate student in Historic Preservation has completed the copying to CD of all Milford Times articles from April, 1937 to March, 1940 related to Ford's building of Milford's three Village Industry buildings. Paul will have them up on the website soon.
 - Judith presented a draft version of a slide show she prepared for students working on the History Channel grant project including information on Ford's Village Industries, Milford's Village Industry and the Powerhouse preservation project. The slide show will go up on the web site when it is finalized.
- Oakland County's “Oak Rivers” poster, promoting “river corridors and community assets” highlights Milford's Powerhouse as an historical asset. Judith will distribute copies of the poster to business in town, the Village/Township offices and the Chamber of Commerce.

Interpretation Suzanne Bailey, chair

- Historic Research
 - A graduate history major attended the meeting to learn how he might be able to contribute to historic research on aspects of early hydroelectric power production in Milford

Awards:

Old Business:

New Business:

Announcements:

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****Dorothy Kane Report,

3/11/08:

Stories of the Pettibone Creek Hydroelectric Station

A Collaboration of Milford Historical Society, Huron Valley Schools, and The History Channel

Save Our History Grant Update

March 11, 2008

Members of the Milford Historical Society have been working diligently with a number of dedicated Huron Valley Schools' participants in an ambitious Save Our History endeavor. Lessons and activities are underway to engage secondary students in authentic learning activities to study the historic significance of the Pettibone Creek Hydroelectric Station. The main goals of this educational project strive to allow learners and future visitors to: link the Hydroelectric Station to other Henry Ford Hydroelectric plants and Village Industry sites throughout Southeast Michigan; gain an awareness of the importance of water power in a 19th century settlement town; understand why it is important to preserve the structure; understand the historic land uses in this area; understand how this was part of Henry Ford's vision of industry/agriculture that helped build Milford; understand the architectural importance of the Art Deco building; and be motivated to learn more about the history of the Milford community and the Automotive Industry.

The Milford Historical Society has engaged and planned activities with a number of teachers, grades 6-12, and activities are underway. The preliminary, intense involvement of a few teachers has morphed into a dynamic plan in alignment with respective curricula, which continues to evolve/involve more students, staff, and community. Group and individual meetings have occurred to prepare, several visitations by staff and students to the Pettibone Creek Hydroelectric Station have taken place, and field trips are being scheduled for all *Save Our History* participants. Judith Reiter, Chair of the Pettibone Creek Hydroelectric Preservation Committee, has been actively educating staff, enlisting experts and introducing key & potential interviewees. Bruce Pietrokowski, PhD, University of Michigan - Dearborn, lectured on the Village Industries to students in Art, Video Production, and AP Human Geography classes and Nancy Darga will lead a tour through the Village Industries in March. *Art Deco in Detroit* author Rebecca Savage is scheduled to do a community presentation in May. Community stakeholders and interested parties will be scheduled for interviews, and students from Leadership, Social Studies, Photography, Video, Technology have begun research. Art students will be engaged with community members Margaret and Jerry Wheeler and ceramic artist Cathy Catalo in a tile installation project; Linda Onderko, local visual artist will work with several middle school art classes in the creation of Restoration Drawings at the Powerhouse. In Drafting, 3D CAD renderings are in process, based on photos and plans created by preservation architects. A 3D prototype of the facility will be created, and metal castings will be made; sculptor Heiner Hertling has agreed to guide students on finishing details in models created by mass-production in Creative Metals classes. Research is underway to determine the viability of creating limited editions based on this work to develop an on-going fundraiser to help Pettibone Creek Hydroelectric' preservation efforts. Scripts have been written, and solid preparation is in place for the creation of a DVD and a published book, including such topics as history, hydropower.

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architecture, and Village Industries. Business students will also develop a marketing plan for the book. Video students have started documenting; they will create Public Service Announcements, and will record student activities such as field trips, coursework, meta casting, oral histories, lectures, etc., which will be incorporated into the DVD. These materials may be utilized in a variety of venues, will be educational, easily accessible and understandable by all ages and can be preserved over time, and will be presented to local libraries and government Boards upon completion. A Gala Event/Video Premier/Book Launching will occur in early summer. Muir Middle School Leadership students have a major role in the planning, preparation and participation, and will be inviting community leaders, school officials, students, and teachers.

By utilizing the Save Our History Grant, sustainable products and projects will continue to educate long beyond the funding period. Community members are invited to become involved through endeavors such as the tile project or by participating in oral histories. A news segment will be broadcast on HVTV educational access in the spring. A wonderful new website created by a local web designer Paul Braun provides a forum with which students may interface as a learning tool, contributing to Blogs, and may be adding relevant material as it is developed, also linking learning with The History Channel resources.

This opportunity has resulted in a number of interesting collaborations, well worth nurturing: By connecting Milford Historical Society with teachers & students in an authentic, relevant manner; by establishing cross-curricular connections and vertical articulation, both within the school community and institutions of higher learning; by synchronizing, reinforcing, and coordinating efforts of the Save Our History Grant with initiatives embraced by HVS' USDE Smaller Learning *Communities' Grant*; by creating dialogue between youth, adults, and senior citizens; by integrating the arts/artists with local preservationists and students; by cooperative efforts to televise and promote *Save Our History* efforts.



For more information, contact: Dorothy Kane
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**Richard Harrison Follow-up report (03/12/08):
Electrical**

UNDERGROUND: service from pole to Powerhouse.

We do not need a permit to have DTE dig the trench and run the wire.

Therefore I will be going forward arranging this work to be done and will keep the committee informed of schedule

NEXT SMALL STEP: installation of meter box and service panel.

The Village advised we need a permit before work from a licensed electrical contractor.

Once permit has been acquired there will be a rough and final electrical inspection.

I feel once the meter box, service panel and circuit breakers are installed we can run temporary lights from panel.

Then we re-apply for temporary certificate of occupancy for open houses and educational gatherings like July 4 2007 forward.

This is what I learned today: **Usage**

In the eyes of the Village the Powerhouse is a public building.

It is located in a public park and is governed by the guidelines of the Village Parks and Recreation.

Future usage is much like the Amphitheater in Central Park.

Attached is a Village form that permits any Village resident "exclusive" use of public buildings and Facilities.

This form would be necessary for usage for showers, weddings and art shows in Powerhouse.

Before any of these events the Village would require the interior and exterior to be secure as possible to prevent any liability issues.

I feel that can be done with new railings and strategic landscaping. Both reasonably accomplished before Memorial Day.

A very positive note here.

In my opinion I got the feeling that the Village Manager liked the idea of a "Renewal Energy Park" with Hydro, Solar and Wind generating power. He suggested we double our efforts to have Hydro

Electric generation as a goal. The Powerhouse being the iconic symbol of the park within a park.

It seems the usage is crystallizing as a public facility focusing on a Unique History of self sustaining power in an Architectural masterpiece.