

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Avon Landmarks Preservation Commission
Held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building
On Wednesday, March 11, 2026
At 7:00 p.m.**

The Chair, Cynthia Murnyack-Czarnecki, called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Roll Call

Members:

Present- David Morahan; Theresa Szimpl; Vice-Chair, Ralph White; Chair, Cynthia Murnyack-Czarnecki

Also in Attendance: Anne Kish, Assistant Clerk of Council

**Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Avon Landmarks Preservation Commission Held
Wednesday, February 11, 2026**

A motion was made by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Morahan to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Avon Landmarks Preservation Commission held Wednesday, February 11, 2026, and to approve said minutes as published, and the vote was: Mr. Morahan, "yes"; Ms. Szimpl, "yes"; Mr. White, "yes"; Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki, "yes".

The vote was 4 for and 0 against and the Chair declared the motion passed.

Landmarks Nominations

Mr. White presented the application for the Avon VFW Post 7035 for Landmark Designation. Ms. Szimpl read the complete application dated February 19, 2026, for the property located at 36950 Mills Road, Avon, Ohio. The applicant was Kerry Barvincak, the Post Commander, with Avon VFW as the property owner. The building was estimated to have been constructed in 1955 in brick vernacular architectural style. Ms. Szimpl explained that the landmark site criteria met numbers 1 and 3: its character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the City of Avon, State of Ohio, or the United States; and its identification with persons who significantly contributed to the City of Avon.

Since 1955, the VFW Post 7035 has served as an advocate for helping Veterans in both Avon and Avon Lake. The post is named in honor of Marine Corporal David F. Schneider, an Avon High School graduate and the City's first resident killed in action during the Vietnam War. Corporal Schneider gave his life on February 14, 1968, during the Battle of Valentine Ridge. In 2019, the Post collaborated with the City of Avon to establish the Avon Veterans Memorial, which is located behind the Avon Post Office and serves as a focal point for the community's annual Memorial Day ceremonies where residents gather to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

The activities the Post engages in are not just limited to Veterans. They serve as community hubs offering social camaraderie and are a place where Veterans can connect with peers, receive peer-to-peer support, and enhance their sense of community through various engagements. In times of unexpected financial hardships, this Post extends financial relief through programs they support, like the Unmet Needs program, which assists with basic necessities such as rent, mortgage, and utilities for Service Members and Veterans facing financial hardship. Moreover, the organization actively participates in youth programs, offering educational scholarships like the \$5,000 Sports Clips Help a Hero scholarship, which

aids in the educational pursuits of Veterans and their families. The Post's involvement also extends to community and military services; they organize volunteer events and community service projects, providing Honor Guards for funerals, which honor the deceased military personnel with their presence, and support local military units and their families. This dedication showcases their commitment to both the protection and enrichment of their community, bolstering a sense of unity and shared purpose among its members.

Beyond their Veteran services, the organization actively supports local schools, first responders, and civic programs. Their efforts extend into supporting deployed Service Members, local charitable causes, and community activities.

Representatives from the Post stepped forward to introduce themselves: Kerry Barvincak, Post Commander from 37937 Detroit Road; Janet Barvincak, Ladies Auxiliary and Honor Guard from the same address; Gerald Gallant from 30329 Sandy Lane; and Steve Grasso, Post Quartermaster from 36760 Rummel Mill Drive. Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki recognized the Post's incredible dedication and service, noting that their commitment goes far beyond military service as they continue to strengthen the community through acts of kindness, volunteer work, and unwavering support for those in need. She emphasized that service doesn't end when the uniform comes off and thanked the Post for their courage, compassion, and continued leadership.

Motion by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Morahan to recognize the David F. Schneider Avon/Avon Lake Post 7035 as a Local Landmark located at 36950 Mills Road, and the vote was: Ms. Szimpl, "yes"; Mr. White, "yes"; Mr. Morahan, "yes"; Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki, "yes".

The vote was 4 for and 0 against and the Chair declared the motion passed.

The Commission presented the Landmark Award to the Post representatives, with photographs taken for commemoration.

Landmarks Letters of Recognition

Mr. White, Ms. Szimpl, Mr. Morahan and Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki reported that there were no Landmark Letters of Recognition.

Avon Center Cemetery

Ohio Historical Markers Program

Ms. Szimpl provided an update on the Ohio Historical Markers Program application for Avon Center Cemetery. She explained that she and Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki had met several weeks ago to review all required documents and the 2026 application is now available online. They are currently in the process of refreshing their documents and fine-tuning their statement of significance, expecting to submit the application within approximately 2-3 weeks.

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki added further details, noting that the statement of significance has been revised and is undergoing a final review. She emphasized that the Mayor supports the submission of the application and will provide the necessary letters affirming that the Commission possesses the authority to apply for the Ohio Historical Marker. This authority is based on the fact that the City owns the Avon Center Cemetery. Additionally, the Mayor has committed to covering the

maintenance costs associated with having an Ohio Historical Marker, ensuring its upkeep and continued significance in the community as a recognized site of historical importance.

Through these efforts, the Commission is working diligently to preserve and honor the historical value of Avon Center Cemetery, solidifying its place in the State's recognized Landmarks and enhancing its legacy for future generations.

Reports and Comments

Members:

Mr. Morahan had no comments.

Ms. Szippel had no comments.

Mr. White reported that Mr. Morahan has finished the stake for the Revolutionary War marker at the Avon Cemetery, which will be installed soon. Mr. Morahan described the stake as a 36-inch long, half-inch diameter stainless steel post with spears on the end, bolted at the top so it can be pounded deep into the ground without spinning and to prevent theft.

Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki had no comments.

Audience:

Jacob Schober from 37257 Sandy Ridge Drive in North Ridgeville addressed the Commission regarding property at 34540 Chester Road. He was speaking on behalf of the property owners to request removal of the Landmark Designation from the barn closest to the road. A sale was in process and the prospective buyers were concerned about potential limitations the Landmark Designation might place on their development plans.

Mr. White questioned why they were requesting removal without knowing the buyers' definitive plans. Mr. Schober explained that the buyers, a development company, wanted flexibility and weren't sure what weight the Landmark Designation would carry. They wanted to ensure they wouldn't be limited in their future use of the property.

Mr. White explained that the barn had been designated as a Landmark in 2004 by a historical architect, who was hired by the City to designate Landmarks. The family was notified at that time and chose to accept the designation rather than decline it, receiving a plaque. The designation had been meaningful to Mr. Schober's grandfather who started the farm and his father, but now the father was no longer able to farm the land.

When asked about returning the plaque if it had no significance to them, Mr. Schober indicated his brother John wanted to keep it for posterity, which Mr. White confirmed was acceptable, though he noted they sometimes ask for plaques back due to expense and limited supply.

The property sale involves a commercial development company, as there is no residential zoning in that area. Other development is occurring nearby, including a Mercedes Benz dealership across the street. The buyers indicated they may treat it as an investment property initially, keeping current tenants in place until they develop definitive plans.

A motion was made by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Morahan to remove the Landmarks Designation from the property at 34540 Chester Road, and the vote was: Mr. White, "yes"; Mr. Morahan, "yes"; Ms. Szimpl, "yes"; Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki, "yes".

The vote was 4 for and 0 against and the Chair declared the motion passed.

The property was officially removed from landmark status.

Adjourn: 7:22 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. White and seconded by Ms. Szimpl to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Avon Landmarks Preservation Commission, and the vote was: Mr. Morahan, "yes"; Ms. Szimpl, "yes"; Mr. White, "yes"; Ms. Murnyack-Czarnecki, "yes".

The vote was 4 for and 0 against and the Chair declared the motion passed.

The Chair announced that the next Regular Meeting of the Avon Landmarks Preservation Commission will be held on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, in the Council Chambers of Avon City Hall at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Anne Kish, Assistant Clerk of Council

PASSED: _____

SIGNED BY: _____
Cynthia Murnyack-Czarnecki, Chair

ATTEST:

Anne Kish, Assistant Clerk of Council