

CHAPTER 11

TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL COMMISSION

11.1 Intent and Purpose. The purposes of this chapter and the intent of the Township Board in adopting it are the following:

- (1) To promote public interest within the Township in historic buildings and sites and historic objects and memorabilia for the benefit of the citizens of the Township and others.
- (2) To safeguard the heritage of the Township by recognizing and preserving buildings, sites, districts or objects which reflect elements of the Township's cultural, social, economic, political or architectural history.
- (3) To establish a Township Historical Commission and to encourage its effective operation, so as to implement the goals and purposes of this chapter.

11.2 Historical Commission. Under the terms of Act 213 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1957, as amended, the Township of Oakfield hereby creates and establishes the Oakfield Township Historical Commission.

11.3 Membership. The Oakfield Township Historical Commission shall consist of seven members. All members shall reside in the Township. The members shall be appointed by the Township Supervisor, with the approval of the Township Board.

Members shall be appointed for three-year terms, except that the terms of the initial appointments shall be as follows: One member shall be appointed for a term of one year, three members shall be appointed for a term of two years each and three members shall be appointed for a term of three years each.

If there is a vacancy in the membership of the Commission, interim appointments for the remainder of the unexpired term shall be made by the Township Supervisor, with the approval of the Township Board.

11.4 Officers.

- (1) At its first meeting, the Historical Commission shall elect a chairperson, vice-chairperson and secretary from its members. It may thereafter create and fill other offices or committees as it considers advisable. The term of each officer shall be one year. If an officer becomes unable or unwilling to occupy that individual's office, the commission shall elect another member of the commission to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term of such office.
- (2) The Chairperson shall preside over the meetings of the commission.
- (3) The Vice-Chairperson shall preside over the meetings of the commission in the Chairperson's absence.

- (4) The Secretary shall give notice of meetings to members and the public and shall keep and maintain records of the proceedings of the commission.

11.5 Meetings, Records and Reports. Public notice of the date, time and place of a regular or special meeting of the commission shall be given as provided in the Michigan Open Meetings Act. The commission shall meet upon call by the chairperson or by a majority of the members. Actions shall be taken by majority vote of the members present, if a quorum is present. A quorum shall be a majority of the members.

The Commission shall prepare and maintain minutes of its meetings. It shall make an annual written report to the Township Board concerning its activities and any recommendations for actions by the Township Board related to the purposes of the commission for the advancement of historic preservation and awareness in the Township.

11.6 Functions and Duties. The functions and duties of the Oakfield Township Historical Commission shall be as follows:

- (1) To undertake research, inspection and investigations of sites, buildings, documents or items of historical interest.
- (2) To operate and maintain buildings and sites of historical interest.
- (3) To protect and to provide for public access to buildings, sites, documents and other items of historical interest.
- (4) To recommend expenditures by the Township for the acquisition or operation of buildings, property and other items of historical interest.
- (5) To recommend that the Township Board apply to the Michigan Historical Commission to have any sites of historical interest within the Township listed as State Historical Sites, in accordance with Act 10 of the Public Acts of 1955.
- (6) To plan and carry out events intended to educate the public and to foster public interest in the heritage of the Township of Oakfield.
- (7) To request and accept appropriations, grants and gifts from any source, public or private, including the Township of Oakfield, to carry out its functions.
- (8) To perform all the functions assigned by federal law, state law or local ordinance to the Township Historical Commission.
- (9) To carry out any other functions which, in the determination of the commission, will foster the preservation of, and public interest in, the heritage of the Township of Oakfield.

11.7 Volunteers. The historical commission shall, when appropriate, encourage the participation of volunteers in order to obtain the disseminate information, to observe historic buildings and neighborhoods, and to assist in performing other activities of the commission.