



Planning and Economic Development

Sara Roediger, AICP, Director

From: Chris McLeod
To: Planning Commission
Date: September 13, 2023
Re: Winkler Mill Pond Historic District Re-Survey Committee Report

The City of Rochester Hills is a Certified Local Government (“CLG”). CLG status is jointly administered through the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the National Park Service (NPS) in an effort to promote, support and enhance historic preservation at a local level. Since the City is a CLG, the City and its Historic District Commission is charged with developing and carrying out a plan for the ongoing survey of historic resources in the City. Therefore, in late 2018 and throughout 2019 the HDC, City Staff and the City’s Historic Consultant discussed surveying options and prioritizations for the City’s historic resources. Once priorities had been established, the matter was brought before City Council.

At the January 2020 joint meeting, the City Council authorized the re-survey of the Winkler Mill Pond Historic District that was originally designated in 1978. The re-survey would be a continuation of the 2002 efforts that recognized that portions of the Winkler Mill Pond Historic District could benefit from additional surveying efforts and recommended a “re-survey” of the District. The re-survey work is now complete and based on the findings, it is recommended that the Winkler Mill Pond Historic District be reduced in size to eliminate those properties on the east bank of the Winkler Mill Pond and those generally south of Winkler Mill Road.

To legally consider a change to the boundaries of the historic district, the City Council directed the Historic Districts Study Committee to review the boundaries and make a recommendation back to City Council. At their August meeting, the Historic Districts Study Committee adopted the Winkler Mill Pond Historic District Re-Survey Committee Report that concluded that the District boundaries should be modified to remove a number of properties that were not contributing properties to the overall District. As a part of the adoption, the Historic Districts Study Committee requested (pursuant to State law) that the adopted Report be circulated to the Rochester Hills Planning Commission and the State Historic Preservation Office.

The State Historic Preservation Office has received and will review the report and it will be presented to the Review Board at their September 22, 2023 meeting. The SHPO Office will also forward the report to the Michigan Historical Commission for their review.

The City will hold a public information session on September 14th for those residents within the Winkler Mill Historic District to discuss the changes and answer any questions prior to the formal public hearing on the proposed amendment to the district that will be held at their October 12th meeting. Upon completion of the public hearing, the Historic Districts Study Committee will finalize the Report, adopt the final report and will forward their findings back to City Council.

Potential Action

MOTION, the Planning Commission has received and reviewed the adopted Preliminary Winkler Mill Pond Historic District Re-survey Committee Report and **(ACCEPTS THE Preliminary Report AS WRITTEN / ACCEPTS THE Preliminary Report WITH THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONS/REVISIONS_____)**.