

FRENCHTOWN CHARTER TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL COMMISSION ORDINANCE
Ord. No. 234; Adopted March 21, 2023

An Ordinance to create and establish a Frenchtown Charter Township Historical Commission pursuant to Public Act 213 of 1957.

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF FRENCHTOWN HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. Title.

This Ordinance shall be known as the “Frenchtown Charter Township Historical Commission Ordinance.”

Section 2. Purpose.

The purpose of the Historical Commission shall be to:

A. Collect, arrange and preserve historical material, including books, pamphlets, maps, charts, manuscripts, papers, copies of domestic and foreign records and archives, paintings, photographs, statuary, and other objects and material illustrative of and relating to the history of Frenchtown Charter Township.

B. Procure and preserve narratives of the early pioneers, their exploits, perils, privations and achievements.

C. Collect material of every description relative to the history, language, literature, progress or decay of area Indian tribes.

D. Collect, prepare and display in the museum of the Historical Commission or such other place as designated by the commission for temporary storage or for display of objects indicative of the life, customs, dress and resources of the early residents of the Township, and publish source materials and historical studies relative to and illustrative of the history of the Township.

E. Further public interest in all matters relating to the history of the Township.

F. Initiate and participate in educational and research programs.

Section 3. Establishment.

The Frenchtown Charter Township Historical Commission is hereby established.

Section 4. Membership.

The Historical Commission shall be composed of up to nine members and not fewer than five members, who shall be residents, landowners or business owners within the Township. Not more than two of the members may be Township Board members. Members shall be recommended by the Township Supervisor and appointed by the Township Board. Each member shall serve for a term of three years.

Section 5. Officers, Meetings and Records.

A. The Historical Commission shall each year elect a chairman, vice-chairman, treasurer, recording secretary and any other officers from its membership as it may deem necessary.

B. The Historical Commission shall hold meetings regularly and shall designate the time and place of such meetings.

C. The Historical Commission shall adopt its own rules of procedure and shall keep a record of its proceedings.

D. The Historical Commission shall be subject to the Open Meetings Act and the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 6. Duties and Powers.

A. The Historical Commission shall acquire, collect, own and exhibit, in the name of Frenchtown Charter Township, articles of historical interest and value which pertain to the history of the Township.

B. The Historical Commission shall acquire, take and hold, by purchase, gift, devise, bequest, or otherwise, such real and personal property as may be proper for carrying out the objects and functions for which it is established; and any property, real or personal, received in trust shall be held in the name of the Township, and in conformity with the terms of any trust.

C. The Historical Commission shall otherwise promote public interest in and preserve the history of the Township.

Section 7. Donations and Receipts.

A. All donations of monies or property, real or personal, shall be received by the Historical Commission as charitable contributions for public purposes unless designated by the donor. Donors shall provide a bill of sale or other form deemed acceptable by the Township granting all rights and title above all others to the Township free and clear of any liens or interest in same.

B. All monies collected or received by the Historical Commission from any source shall be paid to and received by and held by the Township Treasurer and such monies shall be used only to offset and defray the expenses of the Historical Commission. All monies received by the Historical Commission shall be held for the exclusive use of the Historical Commission for public purposes and as approved by the Township Board.

Section 8. Expenditures.

Neither the Historical Commission nor any of its members shall incur any expense or create any obligation or liability upon the Township without prior approval of the Township Board.

Section 9. Repeal.

All Ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are to the extent of such conflict hereby repealed.

Section 10. Severability.

The various sections and provisions of this Ordinance shall be deemed to be severable, and should any section or provision of this Ordinance be declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or invalid the same shall not affect the validity of this Ordinance as a whole or any section or provision of this Ordinance, other than the section or provision so declared to be unconstitutional or invalid.

Section 11. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately after passage and publication in a newspaper having general circulation in the Charter Township of Frenchtown, County of Monroe.