

MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF
THE HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
TUESDAY January 19, 2010

A regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was held at the Municipal Building on Tuesday January 19, 2010 in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Chair Hayden called the meeting to order at 7:38 pm.

Commission members present: Betsy Ackerman, David Blackwell, Pam Crabtree (8:45pm), Max Hayden, Erika Kotite, Moira Lawrence & Don Timbie.

Recording Secretary: Deborah Rishko

Township Administrator/Engineer: Paul Pogorzelski

Reorganization: Ms. Ackerman nominated Mr. Hayden to continue as chair. Ms. Kotite seconded. All were in favor.

Minutes for Approval

The minutes of the December meeting were approved with corrections

General Topics

Review of HPC mail

The commission received a request from a University of Pennsylvania student requesting an internship. Mr. Pogorzelski said he would look into the possibility of getting funds for the stipend. The commissioners discussed having the intern inventory the designated sites, measure and do architectural drawings, plans and elevations and also take exterior and interior photos if possible. Ms. Ackerman, Mr. Hayden, and Mr. Blackwell offered to lend assistance. Correspondence was received from Preservation NJ, Drew University and the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions.

Committee Reports:

Landmarks Designation Committee:

Mr. Blackwell reported that he will bring finalized versions of the designations for the Cornelius Larison house, the Moore farmhouse and the two Stony Brook Watershed buildings to the next meeting. He also mentioned working on the designation for the site at the Jacobs Creek crossing. Ms. Ackerman inquired about the information regarding the springs in the ridge at the bridge site. Mr. Blackwell stated that aerial maps show the cuts in the ridge formed by springs and he had also read accounts of the battle of Long Island that described how the troops had to guard the cuts in the ridges where the roads were.

Township Historic Properties Committee:

Mr. Blackwell's letter to the National Historic Trust for Historic Preservation in support of the site of Washington's troops crossing at Jacob's Creek was approved by the commissioners. Also approved was Mr. Hayden letter to SHPO supporting the designation of the Washington's Victory Trail. Mr. Pogorzelski said that the township committee had applied for designation of the entire trail and asked that the

commissioners view the application. Ms. Ackerman stated that she would write the letter of support.

Survey & Planning:

No Comment on applications for block 115 lot 83 and block 91 lots 3.161, 3.181, 3.961, & 3.191.

Community Outreach

The commissioners discussed the signs for the sites along the Lawrence Hopewell Trail. Ms. Ackerman completed the verbage for the Mt. Rose distillery. Mr. Hayden distributed a draft of the sign for the Enos Titus house. Mr. Blackwell volunteered to write the draft for the Hunt house. Ms. Lawrence said that she and Ms. Kotite had divided the bookmark work and would have the editing completed for the next meeting. The commissioners discussed the upcoming April 1st deadline for the Spirit of the Jerseys Fair. They decided that the display would focus on the 19 designated properties and discussed ideas on having a large map and connecting the individual property displays to their respective points on the map. They agreed to have a workshop day between the April meeting and the date of the fair to construct the display. Mr. Blackwell volunteered to handle the photographs. Ms. Ackerman volunteered the use of her tent and to locate chicken wire for the displays. Mr. Hayden said that he would look into enlarging the map. The commissioners also discussed getting in touch with Dave Kirkpatrick regarding a frame house demonstration.

Harbourton District:

Ms. Kotite reported that she, Mayor Markulec, Mr. Blackwell and Ms. Lawrence conducted a site visit of the district and discussed the traffic issues and how to solve them. They decided that the village is most vulnerable at the northeast end because the approach from that end is obscured by a curve in the road. They discussed placing signs farther out to give more warning of the decrease in speed, installing speed humps and red shake overlay at the entrances of the village. Mr. Pogorzelski recommended center islands to control speed and reiterated the need for a master plan for the district in order to qualify for grant money for the projects. Mr. Hayden cautioned about the impact of any redesigns on runoff/drainage.

Task Force Updates:

The Pennytown Redevelopment Task Force and the Green Futures Task Force had not met again since the last meeting. Mr. Pogorzelski reported that Community Options was able to reclaim and reuse a lot of the materials from the existing buildings at the Harbourton Rocktown Road farmstead where new affordable housing is being built. There was no report regarding the Deer Management Task Force.

New Business:

Mr. Pogorzelski asked the commissioners to consider areas of historic concern and distributed a map of the revolutionary war landscape. He asked that they identify "hotspots" that may pose problems for future planning if they remain unidentified. Mr. Blackwell stated that there is a lack of convincing evidence regarding the Pennytown site. Mr. Hayden stated that the February meeting should be noticed to commence in the basement so that the commissioners can look at the material in the archives.

At 9:40pm there being no further business the meeting was adjourned.