

MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION TUESDAY April 21, 2009

A regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was held at the Hopewell Township Municipal Building on April 21, 2009 in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Chair Hayden called the meeting to order at 7:45 pm.

Commission members present: Betsy Ackerman, David Blackwell, Pam Crabtree, Max Hayden, Erika Kotite(7:50pm) & Ms. Lawrence(8:05pm)

Excused: Phil Robbins

Township Committee Representative: Mayor Sandom

Township Administration Representative: Robert Miller, Zoning Office & Paul Pogorzelski, Administrator/Engineer

Recording Secretary: Deborah Rishko

Member of the Public: Anthony Bonasera

Minutes for Approval

The minutes of the March meeting were approved with corrections

General Topics

Review of HPC mail

Newsletter received from the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions.

Hunt House Presentation:

Mr. Anthony Bonasera from the County Parks & Recreation Department explained that his office is overseeing the site work for the Hunt house project and that they will be trying to keep pace with the work on the building. He mentioned the entranceway, parking and septic were part of the site work and that a few of the outbuildings were slated to be demolished. There was a discussion about whether any of the buildings to be demolished were a part of the designation. Mr. Blackwell stated that when he wrote the designation he followed the federal/national designation and that he did not believe there was a conflict. Ms. Ackerman asked if the renovations were underway. Mr. Miller stated that permits had been issued. There was a discussion about the grant money and whether or not there would be a problem with the timeframe. Mr. Pogorzelski stated that he thought that as long as a contract had been awarded there would not be an issue. Mr. Bonasera said that by May 1st the project would be underway. Mr. Bonasera stated that all earthwork will require archaeological testing. The commissioners discussed whether a COA would be needed to move forward with the demolition. It was decided that it could be handled administratively.

Motion: by Ms. Crabtree to approve the demolition of the hoop house structure and the block concrete portion of the garage over the historic foundation.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Ms. Ackerman, Mr. Blackwell, Ms. Crabtree, Ms. Kotite & Ms. Lawrence
Nays –none

Jacobs Creek Bridge Update

Mayor Sandom stated that the Township Committee had passed a resolution to recommend that the Jacobs Creek bridge be replaced. She added that there was some confusion based on correspondence from the commissioners about whether or not an iron truss bridge was the recommended type of replacement. Mr. Pogorzelski stated that the resolution did not specifically state the type of bridge to replace the existing structure. The commissioners discussed appropriate methods of communicating to avoid confusion in the future and to stay within sunshine law requirements. Mr. Hayden suggested waiting to see what direction SHPO would go in regarding the bridge before making a formal recommendation. Ms. Ackerman understood that SHPO was looking for direction from the HPC and the HPC should lead the discussion on the new bridge, as the HPC is responsible for protecting the viewshed, even after the original bridge is relocated. Mr. Blackwell stated that he did not think that SHPO would be involved in choosing the type of replacement bridge. Mr. Pogorzelski stated that there would be a meeting on May 5th regarding traffic calming measures for Rt 579 and the transfer of ownership of Rt 579 north of Harbourton Woodsville Road from the County to the Township. Ms. Sandom stated that the purpose of the meeting was to get ideas. Ms. Ackerman requested that the entire road be considered in the traffic calming efforts as opposed to certain sections. The possibility of designating the roadway as a scenic byway was discussed but determined unlikely given that Rt 29 is already a scenic byway.

Hunter Farm

Mr. Pogorzelski stated that the Hunter farm is now a candidate for preservation money but added that there are several other candidates in the township. He stated subdivision plans for the property have been submitted. Ms. Lawrence asked what would happen to the house if the property was preserved. Mr. Blackwell stated that the HPC could recommend that the house and outbuildings remain on one lot as is stated in Clara Hunter's will. Mr. Hayden stated that he had minutes from the site visit to the Hunter house that he would circulate.

Committee Reports:

Township Historic Properties Committee:

The commissioners discussed holding an event at the Whiskey house. Mr. Hayden and Ms. Ackerman volunteered to meet for a site visit of the Marshall's Corner Schoolhouse. The commissioners also discussed the site visit to the Cornelius Larison house on the Pennytown site and how it was worthy of preservation efforts.

County Historic Properties Committee:

The commissioners discussed the old conveyor and stone crusher on Rout 29 that has become overgrown. Mr. Pogorzelski stated that the Township may work collaboratively

with the county to restore the stone crusher and there is also a possibility that Trap Rock would help with the effort.

Landmarks Designation Committee:

Motion: by Ms. Ackerman seconded by Ms. Crabtree to set forth the list of designations for 2009 to include the Cornelius Larison House, the Moore Farmhouse, the Captain John Hart House, the Farley Farmstead, and the Blackwell/Stout/Voorhees Farmstead.

Survey & Planning:

No report

Community Outreach

Mr. Hayden reported that the brochure had been printed and Ms. Lawrence stated that she would handle the distribution. Ms. Lawrence and Ms. Kotite agreed to work on 8 new bookmarks from the Harbourton district for the next year. Mr. Blackwell suggested that the HPC host a gathering to honor the owners of locally designated properties. Ms. Ackerman agreed to handle the planning of the event.

New Business:

Mr. Miller stated that he sent out an environmental resources inventory that needed to be commented on by the HPC. Ms. Ackerman volunteered to handle it.

Old Business:

Ms. Ackerman reported that she was able to get a copy of what the old sign in Pleasant Valley looked like. Mr. Miller said he would take over the task of having the signs created.

There being no further business at 10:25pm the meeting was adjourned.