

MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF
THE HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
TUESDAY June 16, 2009

A regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was held at the Hopewell Township Municipal Building on June 16, 2009 in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Acting Chair Elizabeth Ackerman called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm.

Commission members present: Betsy Ackerman, David Blackwell, Erika Kotite & Mr. Robbins.

Excused: Ms. Crabtree, Mr. Hayden & Ms. Lawrence

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

Recording Secretary: Deborah Rishko

Members of the Public: Morris Cohen, Lisa Coryell, Robin Fogel, Dottie Ender, Donald Kramer & Robin LaFrance.

Minutes for Approval

The minutes of the May meeting were approved.

Jacobs Creek Bridge Update

Several Members of the public attended the meeting because they were under the impression that the HPC would be casting their final vote regarding the fate of the Jacobs Creek Bridge. Ms. Ackerman explained that there was no vote planned and that for safety reasons the township committee had already voted to move the bridge to the Alliger tract for use as a pedestrian bridge. Mr. Kramer asked if the HPC had a say. Ms. Ackerman said that the HPC was aware of the recommendations given by the task force and that originally the HPC had recommended restructuring the existing bridge. Mr. Kramer stated that he thought the HPC and SHPO still had to approve the removal of the existing bridge. Mr. Pogorzelski said that the county took input from the HPC and the task force and gave it to a consultant who recommended moving and replacing the existing structure and that the SHPO was in agreement with that plan. He added that the committee and the HPC then gave the county a list of caveats for replacing the bridge that included retaining a say in the new bridge's aesthetics. Mr. Blackwell stated that the HPC only has an advisory role and that the recommendations from the task force were taken into consideration, however, the changes to the existing bridge needed to meet the necessary requirements were substantial and would visually alter it too greatly. Ms. Fogel stated that what is being proposed is a cut through and the current bridge offers historic value and traffic calming measures. She expressed concern over the safety of a bigger wider bridge that would encourage higher speeds and more traffic. Ms. Ackerman stated that there are only two issues with regard to the bridge that the HPC can weigh in on, design and history. Ms. Fogel mentioned that one of the recommendations had been to build a new bridge beside the existing bridge with one way traffic on each bridge. She

added that she felt that the citizens concerned were not being listened to. Mr. Miller stated that the issue should be taken up with the township committee and that the HPC is sympathetic to the concerns of the residents. He added that they hope to have input on traffic calming measures. Ms. Ender asked if the HPC's input on aesthetics referred to the current location or if the bridge is to be moved. Ms. Ackerman stated that it was her understanding that the bridge is to be moved and the aesthetic issue would be with regard to a new bridge. Ms. Ender stated that she attempted to research the plans for the replacement bridge and spoke to county representatives that were not able to give a clear answer regarding the plans. Mr. Pogorzelski stated that there were no final design plans for the replacement bridge because the HPC has not given a formal recommendation. Ms. Ender asked if there was still hope. Mr. Pogorzelski reiterated that the county does not want the existing bridge to remain where it is and that SHPO has approved its removal. Ms. Fogel said the speed limit is currently not being enforced and wanted to know what assurances will be given that it will be enforced on a new wider bridge. She also requested that they be a more adequate public hearing as the last hearing was held at the same time as the discussion on Aunt Molly Road and the meeting ran very long resulting in not enough time being given to the Jacobs Creek Bridge issue. Mr. Pogorzelski said there would be a special meeting held on June 24 where residents would have the chance to speak to county representatives.

Committee Reports:

Township Historic Properties Committee:

Mr. Robbins said he would draw a plan of the existing schoolhouse at Marshall's Corner that he would submit to Ms. Ackerman. Ms. Ackerman stated she would then do schematic plans for an addition to see if it would be feasible to have the schoolhouse on the affordable housing plan.

County Historic Properties Committee:

No report

Landmarks Designation Committee:

Mr. Blackwell distributed pictures of the Farley house and explained that the house has had significant alterations but is still a farmstead with two barns and a spring house. He said that the Kusers originally bought the property for use as a hunting preserve. He then described the features of the Cornelius Larison house and how it is a customary landmark that anchors the remnants of the village of Marshall's Corner. Mr. Blackwell also added that the watershed properties would require further research but that they would qualify for designation based on their history as a homestead for an important family.

Survey & Planning:

No report

Community Outreach

Ms. Kotite stated that Mr. Blackwell would be supplying the verbage for the book marks and that she and Ms. Lawrence would edit the material. The commissioners decided that the Local Register Appreciation Day would be held in May 2010. They also decided that

the Mt. Rose Distillery day will be held on October 3, the same day as the Harvest Fair. Mr. Robbins said that for the Spirit of the Jerseys Fair next year Mr. Kirkpatrick will be setting up a frame house.

New Business:

Mr. Robbins reported that he was asked to represent the HPC on the deer management committee. He explained that the first meeting focused on the problem of handling the overpopulation and discussing options for getting it under control.

Motion: by Ms. Ackerman seconded by Ms. Kotite to cancel the August meeting due to an anticipated lack of a quorum. All were in favor.

At 9:15 pm there being no further business the meeting was adjourned.