

## MEETING MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION TUESDAY November 17, 2009

A regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was held at the Municipal Building on Tuesday November 17, 2009 in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Chair Hayden called the meeting to order at 7:43 pm.

Commission members present: Betsy Ackerman, David Blackwell, Pam Crabtree, Max Hayden, & Phil Robbins(7:45 pm).

Excused: Erika Kotite

Township Committee: Mayor Sandom

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

Recording Secretary: Deborah Rishko

#### **General Topics**

##### ***Review of HPC mail***

##### **Minutes for approval**

The minutes of the September 9<sup>th</sup> special meeting and the September 15<sup>th</sup> regular meeting were approved with corrections.

A letter dated October 27, 2009 from Daniel Saunders of SHPO to County Engineer Greg Sandusky was discussed. Mr. Blackwell said that the letter answers questions about what the archaeological survey entails and that it will be done for both historical and ecological purposes.

**Ms. Crabtree** explained that the survey will involve the use of metal detectors.

There were also letters from the SHPO sent to Beth Kerr and Ronnie Katz in response to their applications for designation on the county property and Ms. Katz's property at the bridge site.

**Mr. Robbins** asked if Ms. Katz's application was covered under all state entities or does she need to file separately for different types of designation. He noted that it is important to find out which type of designation offers the type of protection she is looking for.

**Ashley Kerr** stated that Ms. Katz filed for preservation of the house based on architecture and the site separately and that she was advised by the SHPO to file for both.

**Ms. Ackerman** mentioned the motion from the previous meeting regarding the recommendation to designate the entire Victory Trail and stated that the HPC should write a letter to the SHPO. The commissioners discussed whether the trail had already been designated and discussed the fact that although there is signage and the trail had been mapped there had been no formal designation. Mr. Blackwell stated that the road returns are filed with the county and it will be important to look at those and to also take into consideration the cuts in the cliff where the road is now and whether they were there during Washington's march.

**Ashley Kerr** asked if a letter had been drafted regarding getting a copy of the RFP.

Mr. Blackwell responded that it is not close to being ready now and that the SHPO has

asked the county for a comprehensive study.

**Ms. Kerr** asked if the HPC was going to request that the whole trail be designated.

**Ms. Ackerman** stated that the whole trail is significant.

**Ms. Kerr** suggested that the whole trail be designated as a scenic byway and the site be designated separately.

**Mr. Robbins** said that it should be determined what type of designation is best.

**Ms. Kerr** said that the site and the trail are two different things. She asked if the point of the letter to the county is to change the application to designated the whole trail.

The commissioners responded that it could be designated as a site or a district.

**Ms. Kerr** asked if the site is designated locally.

The commissioners responded only the bridge is designated.

**Mr. Blackwell** stated that the letter from the SHPO in response to the application for designation outlines the work to be done and that some other category might offer other protections.

**Ms. Kerr** asked if the HPC was waiting to see what would happen before they designate the site locally.

**Mr. Blackwell** stated that he has started work on pinning down the location of the original road and explained that the area could be 200feet wide because of the number of troops. He stated that in order for the site to be designated there must be boundaries but that the archaeological survey must be done first.

**Ms. Ackerman** explained that other designations are currently underway.

**Ms. Kerr** wanted to know if the site was on the list to be designated.

**Ms. Crabtree** stated that even after the archaeological survey is done it would take several months to designate the site.

**Ms. Kerr** asked about creating a district in the area surrounding her parents farm and grandparents farm.

**Ms. Ackerman** suggested that she look at the ordinance.

**Mr. Blackwell** stated that a district has to have a cohesive theme and it would not be easy to designate that area as a district because of that. He explained that individual properties have 8 categories of significance. He explained the process of designation from the original research to the hearings and voting on the ordinance.

**Ms. Kerr** suggested that the HPC file a scenic byway application.

**Mr. Blackwell** said that it is not the charge of the HPC to file those types of applications.

**Ms. Crabtree** agreed.

**Mr. Hayden** stated that the Kerrs should send a letter of interest to the HPC regarding designating the farmsteads.

**Mr. Blackwell** said that if the farmsteads were designated it would give the scenic byway application a boost.

### **Survey & Planning**

No comment on plan for block 46 lot 12. No comment on plan for block 88 lot 28. No comment on plan for block 23 lot 4.01.

### **Community Outreach:**

Ms. Lawrence stated she would contact Mr. Mauer to get help distributing brochures.

Ms. Crabtree requested that each of the commissioners get 10 of the brochures to distribute. Mr. Blackwell gave Ms. Lawrence the material for the new bookmarks. She

stated that she will work with Ms. Kotite to condense the information. The commissioners discussed holding the recognition ceremony on May 23, 2010. They discussed possible locations. Ms. Ackerman said she would outline what needs to be done for the ceremony. Mr. Blackwell stated that he will do a power point presentation. The commissioners also discussed preservation awards and workshops.

### **Township Historic Properties:**

Mr. Miller reported that Ms. Ackerman completed the language that was approved by DEP for the Mt. Rose distillery signs. He stated that more grant money is available for signage but the sites must be part of the Lawrence Hopewell Trail. He suggested the Twins Pines site and the Enos Titus farm. Mr. Robbins volunteered to work on the language for the Twin Pines site and Mr. Hayden volunteered to work on the language for the Enos Titus farm. Ms. Ackerman asked if the HPC will have the opportunity to proof the signs. Mr. Miller said yes. Ms. Ackerman volunteered to check on the condition of the Harbourton sign. Mr. Hayden stated that he would draft a letter to the Koseks formally requesting the plans for the existing building.

### **Landmarks Designation Committee**

Mr. Blackwell reported that he is working on the designations for 2010. Mr. Hayden mentioned that he learned at Historic Preservation camp that one municipality designated several properties under one ordinance and it was recommended that each property be done under separate ordinances.

### **New Business:**

The commissioners discussed Historic Preservation camp and how they learned new ideas from other municipalities. They discussed how one municipality placed signs on the properties to be designated informing the public that there would be a vote taking place and a different color sign would go up once the designation is approved. It was also helpful in making the public aware of designated properties in the case of unauthorized renovations/additions. Ms. Ackerman mentioned the importance of partnerships between historic preservation groups and open space groups. Mr. Robbins stated that he would research a sign project for self guided tours of designated properties in the township.

### **Green Futures Task Force**

Mr. Miller explained that the committee has formed a Green Futures Task Force that is geared towards getting the township deemed a sustainable community through recycling efforts, use of solar and wind power, use of hybrid vehicles and modification of existing buildings etc. Ms. Ackerman is a member and stated that once the township becomes certified grant monies will become available.

### **Pennytown Redevelopment Task Force**

The task force is geared towards discerning what type of development should take place in the Pennytown/Kooltronis/Marshall's Corner area. Ms. Lawrence asked if the area could have any type of use. Ms. Sandom stated that if the zone is expanded beyond Pennytown to Kooltronics then the affordable housing can be spread out. Ms. Ackerman and Mr. Hayden are members.

### **Deer Management Task Force**

Mr. Robbins stated that a survey would be devised to determine the resident's feelings about the overpopulation of deer.

At 10:03pm there being no further business the meeting was adjourned