

**MINUTES
OF THE
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
CRANBURY, NEW JERSEY
AUGUST 1, 2023**

TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING

The Meeting of the Cranbury Township Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) was held on August 1, 2023, 7:00 pm at Town Hall, 23A North Main Street, Meeting Room.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Ryan called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and presided over the meeting.

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

Pursuant to the Sunshine Law, adequate notice in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6) was provided on January 20, 2023 of this meeting's date, time, and place, and the agenda was mailed to the news media, posted on the Township bulletin board, mailed to those requesting personal notice, and filed with the Municipal Clerk.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Ms. Ryan, Chair; Ms. Suttmeier, Vice-Chair; Mr. Geier, Ms. Marlowe; and Mr. Szabo, Alt I

Members Absent: Mr. Golisano

Professionals and Staff Present: Robin Tillou, HPC Administrative Officer
Lisa Knierim, Township Committee Liaison

OLD BUSINESS

2023 CLG Grant – Surveys – Richard Grubb & Associates

Ms. Kristen Herrick of Richard Grubb & Associates was present to discuss the drafted Phase III surveys that were put together by Richard Grubb & Associates for the Commission. Ms. Herrick was present to get Commission members feedback on the surveys.

Chair Ryan started off by advising the statement at the end of most of the surveys stating “generally dating from the mid-nineteenth to the late twentieth centuries” is not consistent. Please check to make sure each survey is consistent with the time period.

Chair Ryan would like to know why Brainerd Lake and the Brainerd Lake Bridge are not key contributing.

Ms. Herrick replied that a key contributing is reserved for properties that are individually eligible for listing being an outstanding property separate from the district.

Chair Ryan stated there are mid-century or split-level style buildings that are beyond the period of significance. If these buildings are not in the eligible time period what could make them contributing?

Ms. Herrick replied it would have to be a good intact example and the period of significance for Cranbury Village Historic District ends in 1940. If a whole section of the district were developed in the 1950s then it could be included to recommend those for contributing status.

Chair Ryan mentioned the 1 Prospect Street survey states there have been no changes, but solar panels have just been approved for that property so that may want to be included. It should be noted that the 17 Bunker Hill's barn was moved at the time of the realignment of the street and ended closer to the house. And the railings on the Main Street Bridge were put in 2014.

Chair Ryan advised of the deed restrictions on properties from the 1930's on N. Main Street should be addressed appropriately. It could be described that restrictions like this were common in certain areas.

Ms. Herrick stated the language in the individual survey forms could be pulled and in the final survey report there is a big historic content section that can include a few sentences there for the deed restriction language.

Mr. Szabo advised those properties for the deed restriction are 118 N. Main Street, 124 N. Main Street and 144 N. Main Street.

Mr. Szabo stated 122 Station Road was originally built as a ranch house.

Mr. Szabo advised 59 S. Main Street's house was discussed in 1989 with HPAC that once the house was moved it was going to be in the Historic District, but that initiative fell through the cracks.

Mr. Szabo mentioned 139 N. Main Street's description states Main Street but should be N. Main Street. 139 N. Main Street should be contributing.

Ms. Herrick will add 139 N. Main Street as contributing.

Mr. Szabo advised 2 Barclay Street's style when it was first built was a bungalow.

Mr. Szabo advised 128 N. Main Street; the Waters family bought the house 1958 – 1960 as a point of reference for that house.

Mr. Szabo advised 103 Plainsboro Road was originally a small 1 story cottage.

Ms. Herrick advised that next they will put the revised text that was just reviewed in the state database, generate the state forms and they will be compiled into a pdf attached to the final survey report.

Chair Ryan advised the SHPO (State Historic Preservation Office) will be making edits as well to the surveys.

Ms. Herrick had a question regarding 5 Prospect Street and if lot 114, block 23, should be included in the 5 Prospect Street property.

HPC members agreed to include it.

Cranbury Township Signage

Ms. Suttmeier advised that Mr. Szabo and she went out to the signs in the HD and measured the size. The average width was 25.8". If the two (2) signs on Halsey Reed Road and Bennett Place were not included, then the average width is 25.1" and the size of the proposed sign is 25". It is good to know we are not decreasing the size of the signs. The poles are 2 ½" in diameter and there are three (3) poles that are 3"

in diameter. The vendor does have hardware to accommodate the 3". There were more crooked poles that are highlighted in the packet given to the Commission members. There are now four (4) new poles that are needed and thirteen (13) way finders. The next step is to go to the vendor for an estimate with shipping and hopefully it will be in the budget. If it is over budget, we may want to remove signs that are on the edge of the buffer zone of the historic district on Liedke and S. Main Street that say Main Street only. The other is the sign on Goodwin Road that could be removed if over budget. Brainerd and Evans could also be removed. It was found out that Main Street and Plainsboro Road would be at the bottom of the way finders.

HPC Members agreed to all caps for the circle on top of the street signs that state "Cranbury Historic District."

Ms. Suttmeier advised the manufacturing of the signs is 6 – 8 weeks. We will advise the Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society of the locations and signage.

Mr. Geier advised Plainsboro Road is spelled incorrectly on what was given on the handout.

Mr. Szabo advised Westminster Place is also spelled incorrectly.

Ms. Knierim mentioned North and South Main Street are usually in stock for signage vendors and that could save money.

Middlesex County Grant for National Register Nomination

Chair Ryan has been following webinars for the Middlesex County Grant. HPC could be eligible for the County grant for the research portion of the National Register Nomination of the Hamlet. The grant is called a program one grant and has a 20% match. Cranbury Township will do matching grants as part of the 2024 budget. HPC needs pricing for the research portion of the National Register nomination and then would know how much of a grant they would be asking for. HPC would need three (3) vendors for an RFQ. The maximum for the grant is \$30,000.00.

Commission Training

Mr. Geier advised he had done a historic window replacement training at the AIA convention in San Francisco, CA.

Mr. Szabo will be doing the Wood, Doors and Shutters Restoration once registration is open for the Rutgers workshop and it will be in Philadelphia.

HPC Library Book Inventory

Chair Ryan is waiting to hear back from the library to clarify to them HPC is not Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society. As discussed at the previous HPC meeting, a reply was sent from the library that they do have Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society books in inventory at the library.

Historic Site Designation Process

Mr. Szabo said he will be working with Ms. Marlowe on consolidating a list of historic Farmhouses located outside the Cranbury Historic Districts.

HPC Public Outreach

Chair Ryan stated possibly in the fall of 2023 HPC will organize with the Cranbury Library and work with Richard Grubb to get the presentation together.

MINUTES

July 18, 2023

Ms. Suttmeier made the motion to approve the minutes with amendments. Mr. Szabo offered a second.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Ms. Ryan, Ms. Suttmeier, and Mr. Szabo.
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

DISCUSSION

Sarah Sawant, the new member of the HPC, will be appointed on August 14, 2023 at the TC meeting.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Geier to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Suttmeier offered a second. By unanimous vote, the meeting was thereupon adjourned at 8:30 pm.

CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that I am the duly appointed secretary of the Cranbury Township Historic Preservation Commission, and that this document, consisting of four (4) pages, constitutes a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular meeting held on August 1, 2023.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name on this day of September 8, 2023.

Robin Tillou

Robin Tillou
Recording Secretary
Historic Preservation Commission