

**MINUTES
OF THE
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
CRANBURY, NEW JERSEY
NOVEMBER 14, 2023**

TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING

The Meeting of the Cranbury Township Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) was held on November 14, 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 *3.5; Ms. Suttmeier, Vice-Chair 3; Ms. Marlowe *3.5; Mr. Szabo, Alt I *11.5

Members Absent: Mr. Geier, Mr. Golisano, Ms. Sawant, Alt II

Professionals and Staff Present: Robin Tillou, HPC Administrative Officer

Professionals and Staff Absent: Lisa Knierim, Township Committee Liaison

*Volunteer hours including 1.5 Hours of Meeting Tonight.

OLD BUSINESS

CLG Grant

Chair Ryan advised that she has reached out to Dean Klimek, Cranbury Public Library, to schedule an appointment for Richard Grubb & Associates to present a review of the surveys that were done for Phase III.

Chair Ryan stated the intensive level surveys were done by Richard Grubb & Associates. The next step is to designate those properties that we are increasing the boundaries of.

Mr. Szabo mentioned that the Township Planner, Liz Leheny, would have to be involved for 2024.

Chair Ryan advised it was agreed with the Commission members at the previous HPC meeting that we would pursue the National Register for the 2024 CLG grant. Lori Thompson, HPC grant writer, advised that she can help with the grant.

Mr. Szabo stated for this round the grant monies will be used for the research of the National Register of the Cranbury Station Hamlet properties. The next grant can then be used for the nomination portion of the National Register.

Chair Ryan stated once an estimate of services is received for how much is needed from the scope of work then that can dictate how much money is needed for the grant. The maximum that we can ask for of the grant is \$50,000.00. The nomination will also include the Monroe portion, agricultural fields and the train station.

Cranbury Township Signage

Vice-Chair Suttmeier advised the final stages are she must order the signage and get an invoice for payment. The vendor will be figuring out the shipping charges as well.

Cranbury Township Bike Plan

Vice-Chair Suttmeier feels HPC should put in a request to do gateway signage at the Hamlet and The Elms of Cranbury. Those locations are not in the bike plans. Vice-Chair Suttmeier will send an email to Ms. Marabello and ask of the price for the gateway sign that was installed on Route 130. We will request the gateway signage at the TC budget meeting for 2024.

Ms. Marlowe suggested maintaining the gateway sign that exists.

Chair Ryan advised the verbiage and the date on the Phase II signage needs to be confirmed.

Vice-Chair Suttmeier advised that signage in Princeton has whited out the “settled” date. It may be because the Lenape Indians. Townships need to be careful of settled dates.

Commission Training

Chair Ryan and Ms. Marlowe advised they have registered for the Closing the Gap Between Historical Accuracy and Energy Efficiency webinar.

Mr. Szabo advised of the training he had taken for the Traditional Building Conference Online Education: Preserving the Integrity of the American Front Porch on November 9, 2023. The presenter was Chris Tidwell of Aeratis Porch Products, and they produce synthetic building material.

Mr. Szabo advised of the training he had taken for Rutgers Continuing Education: Wood Doors and Shutters Restoration on November 11, 2023.

HPC Library Book Inventory

Chair Ryan has spoken to Brook Batista of Cranbury Library and Ms. Batista advised that they did get the books that were donated last year, and they do have a seal on them that they were donated by HPC. The books from 2020 and prior are in the reference collection. The 2020 books and prior include intensive level Phase I and II and the design guidelines for Cranbury Village. There is also the Old Barn Book, the 100 Victorian Architectural Designs, Turn of the Century House Designs, Field Guide to American Houses and East Jersey Under the Proprietary Governments, and Scotland and His First Colony. In the circulating, non-fiction collection they have New Jersey: A History of the Garden State. They were unable to locate: Building by the Book, The Comfortable House, Classic Houses of the 1920s, and Sears Roebuck Home Builders Catalog by Sears.

Chair Ryan advised we should be clear if the books donated should be reference books and/or circulating. Going forward when the books for this year are ordered, it should be decided where we want the books to go.

Vice-Chair Suttmeier stated there should be a shelf for the HPC donations. She had to get permission to take out the John Bull book, but the Little House should be circulating.

Vice-Chair Suttmeier would like to order the Sears Roebuck Home Builders Catalog by Sears for a donation this year.

Identifying Historic Agricultural Properties

Mr. Szabo advised he will compile a list of the agricultural properties and include what had been given to him by Mr. Golisano and Ms. Marlowe.

HPC Public Outreach

Chair Ryan stated they will continue to discuss what is needed for Cranbury Day in 2024. HPC had discussed also participating in the Colonial Fair in 2024 if it does occur.

Approved Minor and Ordinary Maintenance and Repair Applications

HPC Number	Block	Lot	HD or BA	Address	Approved / Denied / Withdrawn	COA & Letter sent
190-23	23	47	HD	63 N. Main Street - Peace of Chocolate Signage	Approved	9/27/2023
191-23	23	59	HD	29 N. Main Street - Princeton Ballet - Roof	Approved	10/2/2023
188-23	32	24	HD	4 Park Place East - Cranbury Museum Walkway	Approved	7/19/2023
189-23	30	1	HD	74 N. Main Street - Provident Bank Signage	Approved	8/10/2023
193-23	21	18	HD	1 Cranbury Neck Road - Windows	Approved	11/8/2023
194-23	21	18	HD	1 Cranbury Neck Road - 1 Cranbury Neck Road - Front Porches, Porch Posts	Approved	10/27/2023
195-23	32	10	HD	28 N. Main Street - Front Porch and Railings	Approved	10/27/2023
196-23	35	19	BA	23 Station Road - Fence	Approved	10/27/2023
197-23	32	5.01	HD	38 N. Main Street - Condensers	Approved	10/27/2023

New Homeowner Letters

New homeowner letters advise new homeowners that their property is in a historic district and/or buffer area and that any exterior work to the home requires a Certificate of Approval application from the HPC.

New homeowner letters were sent to 116 N. Main Street, 13 Bunker Hill, 1 Cranbury Neck Road, 10 Symmes Court, 1-5 Scott Avenue and 2 Wesley Place.

2024 HPC Meeting Schedule

HPC members agreed to hold one (1) meeting a month on the third Tuesday of each month in 2024.

Revolution New Jersey

Ms. Knierim had contacted Chair Ryan to discuss the initiative for “Revolution New Jersey” which is the celebration of the 225th anniversary of the Revolution. In October 2023, the Township Committee

passed a resolution to prepare for events for the celebration of the American Revolution. Cranbury is one of 23 municipalities that will be having events related to the revolution. HPC should get involved in what Cranbury could be doing by going through what has been done in the past. Ms. Knierim mentioned doing a reenactment. HPC may be asked to join in or participate.

Chair Ryan has the pamphlets from John Chambers that he wrote about revolutionary activity in the Township.

Mr. Szabo asked if a collaboration could be made with the other registered Townships.

Chair Ryan stated that should be done.

Vice-Chair Suttmeier stated they should be doing a walk or bike ride following Washington's path across the river, through Princeton and up to Trenton.

NEW BUSINESS

1274 South River Road

Vice-Chair Suttmeier advised that the Victorian house, previously known as Gentle Healing, located at 1274 South River Road, is getting dilapidated and there are concerns for that property. She feels there should be maintenance done to that property. She does not want it to be demolished due to neglect.

MINUTES

November 14, 2023

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

ROLL CALL:

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

DISCUSSION

Chair Ryan mentioned that an HPC volunteer application was submitted by Mr. Gabe Lederman. There are no vacancies on HPC presently, but if there is going to be, she wanted to inform the members of the new application received.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Ryan opened the meeting to the public.

With no public comment, Chair Ryan closed the public portion of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

There being no further business, a motion was made by Ms. Suttmeier to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Marlowe 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 five (5) pages, constitutes a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular meeting held on November 14, 2023.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name on this day of December 6,
2023.

Robin Tillou
Robin Tillou
Administrative Officer
Historic Preservation Commission