

**MINUTES
OF THE
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
CRANBURY, NEW JERSEY
DECEMBER 5, 2023**

TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING

The Meeting of the Cranbury Township Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) was held on December 5, 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 *5.75; Ms. Suttmeier, Vice-Chair *3.25; Mr. Geier *2, Mr. Golisano *5.75, Ms. Marlowe *2.75; Mr. Szabo, Alt I *2, Ms. Sawant, Alt II *2.75

Professionals and Staff Present: Robin Tillou, HPC Administrative Officer

Professionals and Staff Absent: Lisa Knierim, Township Committee Liaison

*Volunteer hours including 1 Hour of the Meeting Tonight.

OLD BUSINESS

CLG Grant

Chair Ryan advised she is setting up the presentation for Richard Grubb and Associates to present to the public their surveys that they worked on for the 2023 CLG grant.

Chair Ryan advised the status for the CLG grant that is due on January 19, 2024. HPC will be applying for this grant for the research for the designation for National Register of the Cranbury Station Hamlet Historic District. Lori Thompson, HPC Grant Writer, advised that the only quote that is needed will be from the Township Planner since the planner will be the one working on the research for the Cranbury Station Hamlet Historic District. Chair Ryan will investigate further to confirm three (3) quotes are not needed from other firms.

Cranbury Township Signage

Vice-Chair Suttmeier advised that the purchase order has been issued for the signs that have already been made (for Cranbury Neck Road, S. Main Street and Heritage Park) and for the remaining signage. The remaining signage has been ordered and the vendor is in the process of producing the signage. The signage should be done by early January 2024. A spreadsheet should be made advising when HPC members can be on call for DPW if they need anything.

Vice-Chair Suttmeier advised the signage HPC is proposing for 2024 will have to go before the Traffic Committee to confirm the proposed locations are acceptable. The Township Administrator, Ms.

Marabello, will be advising the Traffic Committee of our request to put signs at The Elms and the Hamlet intersections. Ms. Marabello advised the two (2) other gateway signs are in the works for 2024. The responses from Ms. Marabello made it seem that the bike plan may be implemented in 2024. HPC can go to the budget meeting in January 2024 to request the proposed signage. We will make a case to do additional signage on top of the bike plan. Vice-Chair Suttmeier will follow up with EDAC and advise HPC supports the welcoming signage and advise Ms. Marabello of the verbiage HPC suggests as “Historic Village of Cranbury.”

Mr. Golisano feels it would be appropriate for an HPC representative to be present with the Traffic Committee in case any questions do arise.

Mr. Szabo confirmed that the Princeton entry signage that state “Settled in 1683” were whited out due to the Lenni Lenape Indians being the original inhabitants.

Cranbury Station Hamlet Historic District

Vice-Chair Suttmeier asked what the next step is for the train depot renovation.

Mr. Golisano advised the last thing that was discussed is the owner and engineer were going to implement in the plan the sketches that were shown to them for the renovations of the freight depot. It was mentioned when Chair Ryan and him met with them that if there is any additional information needed when the plan is made, they can reach out to HPC.

Commission Training

Chair Ryan advised of the ABCs of Historic Designation from the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions training that occurred on Thursday, November 16, 2023. Mr. Golisano, Ms. Suttmeier, Ms. Marlowe, Ms. Sawant and Ms. Ryan attended the training. The training took 1.75 hours and is included in the volunteer hours for those that attended.

Chair Ryan advised the interesting point mentioned in the training was the National Register properties should be reevaluated every 10 years.

Mr. Golisano found it interesting that the instructors advised that a local designation could stand to a stronger protection in saving a historic property than the National Register would. The National Registration cannot save historic properties.

HPC Library Book Inventory

Ms. Tillou advised that the Cranbury Township Historic Sites Survey Phase III has been put in the Cranbury Public Library’s mailbox at Town Hall. The cover letter does advise for the library to place the Survey III binder into the reference section with the Phase I and Phase II binders.

Vice-Chair Suttmeier purchased the Sears Roebuck Home Builders Catalog 1913 by Sears for a donation to the Cranbury Public Library and will be requesting the library place the catalog in the reference section for HPC donated books. She will also check to see about getting an HPC shelf in the library.

Ms. Sawant stated she has historic books she can donate to the library.

Chair Ryan will be donating “A Guide to the Architecture of Hightstown Houses” by Harlin Pratt.

Identifying Historic Agricultural Properties

Mr. Szabo advised he will be going over the Master Plan (2010) and the reexamination of the Master Plan (2019) properties with Ms. Marlowe and Mr. Golisano and will be cleaning that up to identify the agricultural properties.

Mr. Golisano suggested using the tax maps to locate the properties to ensure the properties are within the boundaries of Cranbury. There is an older farm that is set up as an office building at the intersection of Dey Road and South River Road that should be included in the identification of the agricultural properties.

Mr. Szabo agrees.

Vice-Chair Suttmeier would still like to identify 1274 South River Road, the Gentle Healing building, as it is in disarray. A new owner may come in and demo the building and that is a concern.

HPC Public Outreach

Chair Ryan stated Kristen Herrick of Richard Grubb & Associates has availability on the week of January 22, 2024 and January 29, 2024.

HPC agreed to have an evening meeting with Richard Grubb & Associates.

Chair Ryan advised Richard Grubb & Associates will present what they have learned in the Phase III survey research and general Cranbury trends and how phase III fits into it. The meeting should be 45 minutes to 1 hour.

Commission Terms

Mr. Golisano announced he will not be renewing his membership. He advised of his appreciation of being on the Commission all these years and that it was a great learning experience while he was a member.

Ms. Sawant advised she was interested in renewing her term and would be interested in becoming a member as opposed to the Alternate II member.

Revolution New Jersey

Chair Ryan has the pamphlets from John Chambers that he wrote about revolutionary activity in Cranbury Township that was provided by the Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society. Chair Ryan also has 1976 Scenic and Historic Tours of NJ. These will add value to look at what already happened during the American Revolution.

Mr. Golisano advised the Chamber of Commerce and Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society will need more support from around town for the Colonial Fair to happen again next year.

Ms. Marlowe stated the Colonial Fair should happen again due to the anniversary of the American Revolution.

Chair Ryan stated HPC should have a table at the Colonial Fair if it does happen.

NEW BUSINESS

NCSHPO Survey – Secretary for the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation

Chair Ryan suggested the Commission members do the survey to give input on whether the Secretary for the Interior Standards should be updated. The survey is due by December 15, 2023.

MINUTES

November 14, 2023

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

ROLL CALL:

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

DISCUSSION

Chair Ryan reminded the Commission members of the email that was given to all Cranbury Township Board members regarding the handling of social media as Township board members.

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 Mr. Geier to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Suttmeier offered a second. By unanimous vote, the meeting was thereupon adjourned at 8:00 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 December 5, 2023.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name on this day of January 25, 2024.

Robin Tillou

Robin Tillou

Administrative Officer

Historic Preservation Commission