

**MINUTES
OF THE
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
CRANBURY, NEW JERSEY
MIDDLESEX COUNTY**

TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING

The regular meeting of the Cranbury Township Historic Preservation Commission was held on August 4, 2020 at 7:00 pm by remote access videoconferencing in response to COVID-19 and the updated Open Public Meeting Act guidelines.

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

Pursuant to the Sunshine Law, adequate notice in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-5) was provided on December 16, 2019, of this meeting's date, time, place and an 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. Notification of remote access meetings, until further notice, was posted on the Township website on July 3, 2020 and sent to the Trenton Times, Home News, and Cranbury Press on July 3, 2020.

CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, Mr. Walsh called the meeting to order, and Ms. Scott performed as recording secretary.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Golisano, Ms. Marlowe, Ms. Ryan (7:16pm), Ms. Suttmeier (2nd Alt. 7:06pm), and Mr. Walsh. Motion to excuse Mr. Szabo was made by Mr. Walsh, seconded by Mr. Golisano, all in favor. Ms. Evelyn Spann, Township Liaison, was present. Record will reflect Ms. Ryan had a late arrival due to local area power outages.

APPLICATIONS

HPC058-20, #33 North Main Street, (B23, L57) within Historic District; this application was received on June 29 and deemed complete on July 27, 2020. Owners, Dave & Suzanne Allikas, were present for discussion of a double sided hanging 28"x48" sign that will reuse the existing post and hardware. The lettering will be (hunter) green and black on a white background. The awning sign will hang from the two black awnings over the store front windows with a background of white to highlight and give visual depth behind each of the green letters. Since the black awning is relatively new, it will be re-used. The hanging flaps will be replaced and will have 5" green letters.

Roll call was taken for approval of the submitted application: AYES; Mr. Golisano, Ms. Marlowe, and Mr. Walsh. INELIGIBLE; Ms. Suttmeier.

Ms. Spann asked the applicant of their ease in determining the code rules and parameters for the downtown area for this application. She explained that the Zoning Committee is currently working to condense the code to make it easier for all to interpret. Mr. Allikas responded that they have been through this process before and were aware of what was required of them. Ms. Allikas responded that it was an easy process with help from the HPC.

OLD BUSINESS

Cranbury Station Hamlet, Depot, and Railway:

Mr. Walsh asked if any Cranbury Station Hamlet residents were present. He welcomed the three Monroe Township residents (Ms. Bossard, and Kathy and Nick Moraldo) and three Cranbury Township residents (Ms. Janice Mondoker, Ms. Lorraine Morris, and Mr. Brian Scarpulla). Mr. Kilbride, Railroad Historian, was present also. Due to Tropical Storm Isaias and the many power outages, Ms. Leheny was unable to attend this meeting. Mr. Walsh will communicate with Ms. Leheny and provide her with the updates to get feedback.

Mr. Walsh began with stating the initiatives to absorb the four Cranbury Hamlet homes into the current historic district or establish a new district; designate the train depot as a historic site; and address the buffer area; and further to establish a rail trail in conjunction with Conrail. He would like to establish the Hamlet as a Historic District before the end of the year. Once the Hamlet has been designated, the Depot and buffer area will follow shortly thereafter. Mr. Walsh inquired with Ms. Spann of the project status south of the Hamlet and when it would be appropriate time to address any concerns. She stated the appropriate time to make recommendations

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would be during the site plan review before the Planning Board. She was not aware when the application project will be on the agenda. Mr. Walsh favored focusing on what the HPC has the ability and control to address. Ms. Spann addressed site plan rules and ordinances that apply. Recommendations can be made and the Board will take them into consideration. Support for the Hamlet and designating the rail depot as an historic site will be there.

The HPC is looking to partner with the Hamlet residents. Ms. Suttmeier suggested to keep the deeding process simple. The job of deeding should be done by one person. Since all deeds are located in New Brunswick, it would be easy to do all the deeds at one time. She is aware that deeds can be accessed on-line until about 1950, before this, they can be found in New Brunswick. Ms. Leheny may be able to assist and offer guidance. Mr. Golisano and Mr. Kilbride will be able to access or supply historic maps of the area for this area.

Mr. Walsh invited Mr. Kilbride to the August 18th meeting for his working knowledge of the rail-line. The designation of the Depot can be done in tandem with the historic district. Steps to identify this property can move forward.

Once contact information has been received, HPC volunteers will work with the individual homeowners to research, find photos and data. Once this has been done, a written description will be needed for National Register submission. A HPC volunteer will be needed for this task with support from Ms. Leheny. It is hopeful that the same nomination forms be used as when the downtown was nominated. Mr. Walsh stated that a water way was mentioned in a previous meeting that was used to fill the locomotive engines but research will be needed. Mr. Walsh asked the attending residents if they are comfortable with this initiative to date. Mr. Brian Scarpulla, (88 Halsey Reed Road), Ms. Lorraine Morris (96 Halsey Reed Road), and Ms. Janice Mondoker (92 Halsey Reed Road) are eager and are looking forward to working with the HPC researching and or sharing their documentation, photos, research, etc. All this information would be beneficial. In addition, the architectural style and age of the home would be a contributing factor.

Mr. Kilbride asked if there is a person who might have historical knowledge of the area for discussion. The famous train crash that involved John Quincy Adams and Commodore Vanderbilt would be an important fact but the exact site is unknown for a marker. Mr. Kilbride stated he read a Commodore biography that he landed in a ditch resulting from the train crash and was taken to a 'nearby' house. Other local municipalities may be able to supply or have information of this famous crash. Mr. Kilbride offered to send a blank National Register form.

Mr. Walsh would like to have Mr. Preiss attend the September 1st meeting to discuss the Hamlet and the downtown buffer area. Secretary will contact Mr. Preiss for this meeting date.

Ms. Moraldo (Monroe resident) stated that she has contacted the MTHPC (Monroe Township Historic Preservation Commission). Mr. John Katerba of the MTHPC and recently retired, is knowledgeable of local history. Ms. Moraldo and past Cranbury Station resident, Mr. Tom Gambino (92 Halsey Reed Road), went to New Brunswick to research and trace past owners of their home. One was a doctor and evidence was found in her home. Ms. Marlowe stated she recently discovered a 2001 Cultural Resource Inventory by Richard Grubb & Assoc. for Monroe Township in the History Center. This document states that Cranbury Station is eligible for placement on the National Register.

Mr. Golisano mentioned the photos he had taken of the area and Ms. Suttmeier had organized them into a power point presentation and were emailed to the HPC.

Mr. Walsh thanked everyone for their participation, contribution and for attending. He invited them to the next meeting on August 18th.

NEW HOMEOWNER LETTERS

One letter has been sent to 6 Park Place East (B32,L23) addressed to 'New Resident'.

22 Maplewood Avenue (B33,L21) received a letter addressing the installed shutters without submitting an application and HPC review/approval. This letter informs the owner that going forward, an application is required for all exterior changes to or on this property.

MINUTES

The minutes from the July 21, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Roll call to approve: AYES: Mr. Golisano, Ms. Marlowe, Ms. Ryan, and Mr. Walsh. INELIGIBLE: Ms. Suttmeier.

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ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

There being no further business, a motion duly made by Mr. Walsh, seconded by Mr. Golisano and carried, the meeting was thereupon adjourned.

CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY

I, undersigned, do hereby certify;

That I am the duly appointed secretary of the Cranbury Township Historic Preservation Commission and,

That the foregoing minutes of the Historic Preservation Commission, held on August 4, 2020 consisting of 3 pages, constitute a true and correct copy of the minutes of the said meeting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name on this 18th day of August 2020.

Linda M. Scott, Recording Secretary