

**MINUTES
OF THE
CRANBURY TOWNSHIP
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
CRANBURY, NEW JERSEY
MAY 17, 2022**

TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING

The regular meeting of the Cranbury Township Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) was held on May 17, 2022 at 7:00 pm by remote access videoconferencing in response to COVID-19 and the Open Public Meeting Act guidelines.

CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, Chair Ryan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

Pursuant to the Sunshine Law, adequate notice in accordance with the Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6) was provided 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. Notification of remote access meetings going forward, 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.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Ms. Ryan, Chair; Mr. Golisano, Vice-Chair; Ms. Marlowe; Ms. Suttmeier; and Mr. Walsh

Members Absent: Mr. Szabo, Alt I and Mr. Geier, Alt II

Professionals and Staff Present: Matthew Scott, Township Committee Liaison
Robin Tillou, Historic Preservation Commission Secretary

APPLICATIONS

CONCEPT REVIEW

HPC146-22 - #14 Maplewood Avenue, Block 33, Lot 25 – Front Porch

Mr. Michael Sonder, Applicant and Owner, was present and is the Owner/Applicant for 14 Maplewood Avenue Certificate of Approval Application.

Mr. Sonder stated his home was built in the 1960's and would like to have a front porch. He would like to know if the front porch should be historically consistent with the neighborhood or historically consistent with the house when it was built.

Mr. Sonder went over the renderings that were submitted. The first rendering submitted is a traditional look that shows the placement of the front porch. It would be in between the windows and in the center of the home. The second rendering is a three column with a shed roof and the other is two with larger beams on either side. The two column is planning for 14 ft. That is a shed roof, not a short balcony.

Ms. Suttmeier asked if the front door is facing the lake or if the lake is at the back side of the house.

Mr. Sonder stated the front door faces the pawpaw tree. The lake is 45 degrees from the farthest corner.

Mr. Sonder stated the rendering shows a side door. It does not exist but is just an idea. There is a window there now but can be a door.

Mr. Sonder stated he is only going to do the front porch, which will be a simple flat roofed front porch with square or cylinder posts on each side. One day he may want to extend out the front room to the right of the door, 6 or 7 ft. and put a 10 ft. extension across the back to make that an extra room.

Vice-Chair Golisano stated the Commission has a design guideline which includes a massing (Page 29) and how that is looked at and how it accentuates the building forms. That would be a good guidance for you. There is also a historic survey – phase 2 that outlines and describe your property on Page 40. It looks like you are going between a flat roof look with trimmed fascia and/or a metal roof look. The whole house almost falls into a cape cod style. So that may be a style of building that you may want to research.

Ms. Suttmeier stated she feels it would be putting a disservice to the front porch if you try and make it look old.

Ms. Marlowe stated she thinks he should give it a peak roof over the mass.

Chair Ryan stated having a different roofing material would be a plus. All the designs submitted are on the right track. The size of the porch is a decent size for the elevation of the house.

Vice-Chair Golisano agrees with the gable look of a different material.

Chair Ryan asked what depth is wanted for the porch.

Mr. Sonder stated maximum 7 ft.

Chair Ryan asked if he would like the sidewalk to wrap around to the front or if he would want the sidewalk to be to the side of it as well.

Mr. Sonder stated he would make the sidewalk, which is now in front of the home, out and put landscaping there where it would come out and then straight back in.

Vice-Chair Golisano stated it is hard to tell if the split rail fence is near the property line, but the zoning setback requirements may dictate the maximum size you are able to build there and it is recommended to go through the zoning process first to see what size is allowed.

Mr. Sonder stated it is 15 ft. to the actual property line which is before the split rail fence.

Chair Ryan stated the gable roof porch that Ms. Marlowe mentioned would work well.

OLD BUSINESS

Cranbury Township Historic Signage

Ms. Suttmeier stated she had distributed her signage presentation that was displayed at the last HPC meeting to the Cranbury Historic Preservation Society (CHPS) and it was well received. She was provided feedback from the CHPS. The sign in Heritage Park was from the Lions Club and the First Presbyterian Church sign was from a memorial fund. They also stated the sign at Mr. Scott's home might belong at a different home based on the history. The two signs for the entrance of the historic

district were done in the 1970s and it was wooden and rotten. In the 1990s it was replaced by CHPS and was made custom out of metal (the pole). The CHPS would like to see about repairing and repainting the signage. The sign at Barn Park is the same style as the signage at other parks, so it may be the Township that had done the Barn Park sign.

Mr. Scott stated he will present to the TC to maintain the signage.

Ms. Suttmeier stated the location of the two signs with the picture of the native Americans with Brainerd right outside of Heritage Park and right before Silvers Lane may be in the wrong location.

Vice-Chair Golisano stated they may be at the edges of the buffer of the Historic District.

Mr. Scott confirmed these signs may have to be sand blasted for maintenance.

Vice-Chair Golisano stated yes, the signage would have to be sand blasted and have enamel coatings or a rust converter.

Ms. Suttmeier stated one of the reasons for the signage discussions is for the Cranbury Station Hamlet Historic District.

Ms. Suttmeier asked for the status of the gateway signage Ms. Spann, Township Committee Member, had mentioned.

Mr. Scott stated it is in the beginning stages of discussion at this point.

The Commission would like feedback from the neighbors of the Cranbury Station Hamlet regarding the signage being proposed for that Historic District.

Ms. Marlowe stated the placement is important for the Cranbury Station Hamlet Historic District so people can stop and read the proposed signage.

Ms. Suttmeier stated the railroad grants may be what the Commission should want to pursue due to being a non-match grant.

Mr. Scott will bring up the presentation at the next Township Committee meeting and someone from the Commission should comment at the Township Committee meeting regarding the signage proposal.

CLG Grant

Ms. Tillou stated Andrea Tingey from the State Historic Preservation Office had advised they will decide if Cranbury Township should move forward with the Hamlet National Register by June 3, 2022. Once they decide they will contact Ms. Tillou.

Ms. Ryan stated the State had advised her that the township had received the award letter and it was sent out. They will be setting up a meeting regarding the grant to sit with them for a possible information meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Ryan opened the meeting to the public.

With no public comments, Chair Ryan closed the public forum.

MINUTES April 19, 2022 Meeting

Vice-Chair Golisano made the motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Marlowe offered a second.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Ms. Ryan, Mr. Golisano, Ms. Marlowe, Ms. Suttmeier and Mr. Walsh

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

There being no further business, a motion was made by Vice-Chair Golisano to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Marlowe offered a second. By unanimous vote, the meeting was thereupon adjourned at 8:20 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 three pages, constitutes a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular meeting held on May 17, 2022.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name on this day of June 8, 2022.

Robin Tillou

Robin Tillou

Recording Secretary

Historic Preservation Commission