

Delaware Township Historical Advisory Committee

Minutes: April 10, 2019 7:30PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Nancy Bond, Bob Chamberlain, Marilyn Cummings, Tim Davis, Chuck Taylor

Visitors: From the Office of the County Engineer: Thomas B. Matthews, Director of Public Works, with Robert Serrao and Eric Johnson, engineers.

Approve last month's minutes: The committee corrected and approved the minutes for the March 13, 2019 meeting.

Projects:

1. **Moore Cemetery:** The Township Committee is asking the Open Space Committee for funding to cover costs of taking ownership of the property.
2. **Holcombe House:** The owners of the property are working with the Heritage Conservancy to get their demolition and construction plans in accord with the requirements of the preservation easement on the property.
3. **Saxtonville Tavern:** Marilyn reports that Mark Texel is trying to get the project moving, and she is waiting to hear from him.
4. **Reading School:** Sam Davis and other scouts worked two days on clearing the path down to the school's historic spring box near the Lockatong Creek. Two large trees had fallen across the path, and have been cut up. The wood will need to be brought up the hill to clear the path and will be sold for firewood by the scouts. We will meet at the school house to discuss the next steps.
5. **Sergeantsville sidewalks:** No news.
6. **Historic bridges update:** Proposed Covered Bridge Repair work – Discussion with the County representatives of things we would like to see during the repair of the covered bridge. Members were able to ask questions, make suggestions and look at what can be done with the restoration of the bridge. We would like to take the roof back to how it looked in the 1937 plans, using timber framing, allowing the vertical clearance to be higher. The decking of the roadway in the bridge used to go in the opposite direction, along the roadway, rather than across it. There was discussion about the fasteners, and way the road planks and their supports are attached to the metal I beams.
The County representatives said everything will be painted, repaired and replaced as appropriate. All current state rules for the road must be observed. Marilyn plans to investigate with timber framing experts how they deal with modern codes when building historically accurate reconstructions.
The engineers will continue to work with the committee, with Bob as the lead.

The truss bridge on Hamp Road has been repaired.

We heard the sad news that Hunterdon bridge E250 in East Amwell, a stone arch, has failed, and is beyond repair. It is on Back Brook Road, near Wertsville Road.

- 7. Historic districts road work:** Drainage catch basins on CR 523 are being repaired.
- 8. Historical site signs:** We continue to monitor the Penn East pipeline project, to ensure that we get the small stone arch bridge on Worman Road, and perhaps others, well-marked, before heavy pipeline construction equipment and traffic appear. Marilyn reports that the Hoff property, on the pipeline's route, has been drilled in a grid pattern to study the archeology. Interesting objects discovered include bones, arrowheads, and a 1774 Spanish gold coin.
- 10. Stockton and Flemington Development updates:** Not much news.

New Business: None

Public Comments, Questions, Suggestions: None

Adjournment: 10:35 PM.