

Delaware Township Historical Advisory Committee

Minutes: June 12, 2019 7:30PM

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Visitors: Liza Davis, who will be welcomed as a member, once approved by Township Committee.

Approve last month's minutes: The committee corrected and approved the minutes for the May 8, 2019 meeting.

Projects:

1. **Moore Cemetery:** Marilyn has done additional research on the site. A house that was mentioned in the records has been moved. She would like to find the original foundation, believed closer to the creek and Sandbrook-Headquarters road.

We discussed the owners' desire to provide the access easement along the property line, rather than through the existing driveway. Lot area discussed is tax map 45 - 6 & 8.

There was discussion about the smaller cemetery nearby, called Hunt/Taylor. There is an old easement for access to that lot, that needs to be researched. Charlie said the Township Committee could take that easement. Both cemeteries are owned by the same owner, so there has been discussion of trying to acquire the second one as well, while we are acquiring the Moore Cemetery. This would add complexity to the transaction.

2. **Holcombe House:** Jeff Marshall and Jason Kliwinski had an on-site meeting for a review of the demolition that has been done. It appears that Jeff has decided that the stucco under the porch does not need to be replaced. The Township Committee has agreed to the asphalt roof.

The township is still the holder of the preservation easement. The construction office had approved the demolition of the interior. The Twp will send a letter to the owners, saying that they need to follow the approved plans from Jason, and copy it to SHPO.

We discussed the procedure for approving construction plans. Jeff Marshall will need to sign off any changes. The building department could issue permits and we will get a copy of any changes.

We discussed having Jeff Marshall join us and then went over the fees for his visit of \$135 per hour. With that in mind Tim suggested asking for copies of existing documents to review on our time at no fee. Bob would like both the documents and a visit. Chuck will contact Jeff.

Liza asked about fund raising for the Heritage Foundation's fee for taking on the easement management; Jeff has suggested we could pay in installments if necessary.

3. **Saxtonville Tavern:** Mark Texel has not responded to requests from Marilyn. Jenn Leynes at SHPO thinks there is a better way for Saxtonville, using

the NJ Historic Trust to hold the easement. The state does not think it will sell, and imagines possible use as state office space. Charlie thinks it might be suitable for COAH housing. We will plan a group visit to the property.

4. **Reading School:** Saturday will be a work day. We will continue to scrape to get ready to paint and repair the wood siding and trim. We will add two photos of the school from Tim's Aunt Kay, taken approximately 70 years ago, to the web site. Last week the boy scouts and volunteers moved wood up from the path to the creek, using a wheelbarrow and ropes and pulleys. The donated desks were cleaned and polished. Discussed a party, including Chuck's possibly providing grass fed hamburger. We could establish a wish list for appropriate furnishings, perhaps including a water jug, an Aladdin lamp and a bench.

5. **Sergeantsville sidewalks:** Both the sidewalks on CR523, north of the blinking light, have been covered in asphalt. Chuck and Roger Byrom had a meeting with Engineer Tim Matthews to discuss the problem. Jenn at SHPO has also been consulted on the issue.

The sidewalk project being planned for the south side of CR604 between the school and the firehouse is still in the planning stages, but is progressing. This also involves SHPO, since an old stone retaining wall in this historic district is listed as a "contributing structure". At a meeting of the SHPO's site plan review committee last year, the township engineer was asked to get a landscape and historic preservation architect involved, and to make every effort to find a way to not tear down the old wall.

6. **Historic bridges update:** Regarding the covered bridge repair project: we discussed all the options presented to us by the County Engineers; they had come to a previous meeting. We were able to look at plans from 1937 and the proposed update for 2020. We asked the engineers to consider changing the roof framing to match the way it was in the Historic American Building Survey photos from 1937, since this would be such a convenient time to make this change, while the bridge is undergoing its renovation.

We also asked if they could change the direction of the decking. The county does not want to do this since it would lower the clearance overhead. Marilyn consulted with Michael Cuba, a timber frame expert. He said the roof was never timber frame. He said the roof line could be raised, to make more vertical clearance. And he suggested use of white oak instead of treated wood.

Roger and Chuck brought this up at the meeting at the County office. We now have come to the end of our options and we all agreed that Bob would send a letter to the county to approve the plans that we have discussed over the last few months. Roger Byrom had sent in some additional issues; we decided to let him send those to the county engineers separately since we felt we had come to a consensus.

7. **Historic districts road work:** It is reported that the County road department is planning a big drainage project in the village of Rosemont.

8. **Historical site signs:** Not much news.

9. Stockton and Flemington Development updates: Not much discussion.

New Business: We need to see about getting Liza Davis appointed to the committee.

Public Comments, Questions, Suggestions: None

Adjournment: 10:40 PM. There will be no meeting in August.