

Delaware Township Historical Advisory Committee

Minutes: December 11, 2019 7:30PM

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Visitors: Liza Davis

Last month's minutes not prepared yet.

The January meeting will be our annual reorganization meeting; a yearly report will be sent to the Township Committee. We will select the officers; both the Chair and the Secretary would like to be replaced. We will ask that Liza Davis be made an official member.

Projects:

1. **Cemeteries:** The Martins considered backing out of farmland preservation rather than grant an access easement for the **Moore Cemetery**. They were asked for the easement, from Haynes road to the cemetery, during the preservation negotiations. Washington Farms LLC, the other adjacent owner, initially cooperative, ended up being open only to a temporary easement. The township has refused to consider taking ownership without formal access.

Bob Leith has suggested the township acquire the **Pine Hill Cemetery**. We are not clear on the need, since it is already owned by the New Jersey Conservation Foundation. We wonder about the **Green Cemetery** by the Covered Bridge.

2. **Holcombe House:** No news; the transfer of the façade easement has not taken place.

3. **Saxtonville Tavern:** After much effort to get news about progress on efforts to save this historic property, Marilyn got a voice mail response from the State (the current owner) of "Why do you want to know?". On the positive side, she was asked for detailed suggestions. We discussed the past history of trying to resolve what was to happen to the building. Going forward, the land needs to be subdivided, surveyed, a price set, advertised, and many other issues. Supposedly, there is a preservation easement that is "still in draft form". There is a large maintenance problem with the south wall that is pulling away, and general long-term neglect. Liza agreed to draft a letter to answer the questions we've been asked.

4. **Reading School:** The stonemason, Sean Moran, has filled in the big hole in the wall, the pass-through. Moldings need to be done next. Tim will contact the molding specialist, George Pauls, who has agreed to help. A photographer, Phil Batero, would like to start to show our progress.

5. **Sergeantsville sidewalks:** The current plan calls for the path through the Village Green to the firehouse to follow the eastern side, passing over the drainage grate area. The current plans have been approved by NJ historic preservation office. Marilyn would like to be on the sidewalk committee.

6. Historic bridges update:

7. Historic districts road work: The issue with the paving over of curbs and sidewalks on 523 in Sergeantsville will be addressed by a letter Marilyn and Liza are creating to send to the Township Committee, to be forwarded to Tom Mathews, at the County engineering department.

8. Historical site signs: No discussion

9. Stockton and Flemington Development updates: One of the legal challenges to the planned demolition of much of Flemington's downtown historic district has prevailed in court, at least for the moment. And the current mayor has endorsed the preservation efforts, apparently a pretty significant shift.

New Business: None raised

Public Comments, Questions, Suggestions: None

Adjournment: 9:30