

Delaware Township Historical Advisory Committee
November 11, 2020 meeting minutes

Virtual meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

Roll Call

Nancy Bond, Secretary	Liza Davis, Chairperson	Alan Johnson
Robert Chamberlain	Tim Davis, V. Chairperson	Valerie Leeds
Michael Cuba	Virginia Gifford	Chuck Taylor
Marilyn Cummings	Marfy Goodspeed, advisor	

Visitors

Bob Leith, Hunterdon County Historical Society
Brian Rounsaville, Newtown PA concerning a family cemetery
(Ray Simonds, of Raritan Twp, was a planned speaker but could not connect virtually.)

Approval of minutes

Approval of September 9, 2020 minutes NB moved, CT seconded, 6 votes to approve

It was suggested we consider meeting at the township hall. It is large enough to spread out. There is now a large screen monitor. There was little interest and we will continue to meet virtually for now.

Officer reports

Chairperson: No report other than agenda items
Vice chairperson: TD asked if we will have a December meeting. (next meeting in January)
Secretary: Took a beautiful virtual tour of the Holcombe House

Ongoing Initiatives Updates

Cemeteries, historic districts, bridges, historical markers, township hall sign, mission statement

Historic Cemeteries: Bob Leith, cemetery specialist from the Hunterdon County Historical Society, attended. He suggested we look at the "low hanging fruit" in unclaimed cemeteries in Del Twp. He has information that he had given to Marilyn, and would like to work with us to preserve more cemeteries in our township. (several cemeteries were discussed including Sutton and Moore). Marilyn will share at our Jan meeting.

Brian Rounsaville is a descendant of a family in our area far back as 1698. There is a family cemetery that is in bad disrepair off of Sutton Farm Road. It is Lot 3, Block 26.02 with an access easement. Brian would like to work on cleaning and repair. It can possibly be a scout project; scouts worked on it 5 years ago. We replied that he does not need our approval, since he has access to the property by a separate agreement, but we will support him in whatever way we can. He will contact us if he wants to seek volunteers.

Holcombe House:

Jeff Marshall will be retiring in the spring and the easement needs to be transferred to the Heritage Conservancy. The historical society has assumed responsibility for funding the easement.

Saxtonville Tavern:

Chuck and Marilyn will send a letter concerning the deterioration of the building to the state. The historic easement was written by Judith Yeany.

Reading School

CT reports no change. Interior woodwork is the next project.

Road Signs (historical markers)

Eventually, we'd like to identify signs with wrong information, missing signs and any other sign issues. Funding for new signs will be a question. We will reconsider next year.

Mission Statement

Suggestions were made on the draft document and we will continue to work on it.

New business

MC has been working on the proposed historic of Brookville as a Historic Society initiative. Dennis has discussed the Certificate of Eligibility with the NJSHPO. The COE is the first step in the process. This district has about 20 houses and will include areas of Stockton.

Discussion ensued regarding open space and cemetery preservation. NB will reach out to Planning Board for more information about how they develop their plans and how we might include cemetery preservation in the next budget cycle.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:09 and the next meeting will be Jan 13, 2021 at 7pm