

Delaware Township Historic Advisory Committee
September 13, 2023 - 7:30pm - Sergeantsville, NJ
Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance

Liza Davis, chair
Tim Davis, v. chair
Nancy Bond, secretary

Bob Chamberlain
Alan Johnson

Deborah Kline
Chuck Taylor

Advisors in attendance: none

Visitors: none

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of minutes 7/12/2023 minutes for approval; NB moved, CT second, AJ & TD abstain, approved

Officer Reports

Chairperson **2023 mtg. dates:** Oct 11, Nov 8, Dec 13 (Dec. tbd)

- DTHAC is on the township calendar, and we have web page content:
<https://www.delawaretwpnj.org/boards/historic>
- The Bridge article
- I will ask Deputy Clerk to have the sign hung in the township building

Vice-chairperson

Secretary Locktown Stone Church fundraiser Oct 1 at 2:00; concert at 4:00 (3 Sundays in a row); new architect Chris Pickell

Ongoing Topics - any news?

- Updates on historic properties: Holcombe House, Saxtonville Tavern, Reading School, Locktown Stone Church; Historic Cemeteries
 - AJ: still pursuing the 2007 ballot question and using funds for historic preservation purposes for the Reading Schoolhouse
 - CT: the state shored up the chimney at the south end of Saxtonville Tavern
 - CT: cemetery on the Skeuse property-212 acres on Headquarters Road. Bob Leith requested funds from the HS for legal fees for work to preserve the cemetery on this property

- County Engineering UPDATE
DTHAC MESSAGE TO COUNTY

At our recent Delaware Township Historic Advisory Committee meeting, we were wondering how things were going at the covered bridge. Would you kindly provide the committee with a brief report on the progress of the work at the covered bridge? Would you share any photos you might have taken? Have you encountered any surprises? Also, we see that the project involved removal of some pieces of wood from the sidewalls of the bridge superstructure. Have you retained any wood pieces you have removed? The generally accepted standard is to avoid affecting any original materials, and if that is unavoidable, to retain and reuse any original materials if possible.

I am particularly interested in the wood because my great aunt Kay and her then-boyfriend carved their initials into an interior board face before they were married! Aunt Kay is about 90 years old now so you can see this was quite some time ago. In fact, after the previous work done on the bridge,

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contact the DTHAC at dthistoricadvisorycommittee@gmail.com
DTHAC webpage <https://www.delawaretwpnj.org/boards/historic>

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that particular board was put back upside down! It was on the upstream side of the bridge, towards the Rosemont end.

REPLY FROM THE COUNTY

The existing cedar shake roof has been replaced with a new cedar shake roof, numerous rafters and collar ties have been replaced. The old timber stringers and deck have been removed and the underlying steel superstructure has been blast cleaned and inspected for repairs. The steel repairs are currently in the shop drawing phase and will be repaired and painted prior to installation of the new timber beams and white oak planks. Some sidewall repairs have commenced. Work is also progressing on the adjacent concrete bridge. Although not a huge surprise, additional structural steel repairs are required based on the inspection that occurred after the sand blasting.

Some of the boards were removed courtesy of the remnants of Hurricane IDA and were never located; these areas are being replaced with new boards. Additional boards were removed by the contractor for installation of his scaffolding; these boards were marked and will be reinstalled at their original location (unless replacement is needed). The balance of the other boards removed are for damage, rot, etc.; these will be replaced with new boards. Portions of the removed boards may be trimmed and used at other locations of damage as fit-up allows.

It's interesting to find out where the initials came from, as I've seen them many times while working there over the years.

Let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Luke Bonham, Superintendent of Bridges

- NJDOT Rt 29 Alexauken Creek Rd to Washington Street project - UPDATE

Good morning,

Thank you for the information regarding the error in Kingwood Township's email address. The list of consulting and interested parties has been updated and is attached.

A cultural resource survey has been completed. We are currently in the process of reviewing the report and preparing correspondence to send it to the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office for their review. The NJDOT will make the CR survey report available to all consulting and interested parties upon its submission to the NJHPO.

Best Regards, Jesse Metzler, Environmental Specialist 1

NJDOT Bureau of Landscape Architecture & Environmental Solutions

- Community outreach - Deadline for the December issue is October 27

New Business

DK: 250 Rev War reenactments; NB will talk to other organizations to learn what events are being planned (county, DAR, and others). We should think about what we might want to do.

Adjournment 8:30 pm

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