**TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD**

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**FEBRUARY 18, 2020**

**MAIN MEETING ROOM**

Chair Steve Boshart called the February 18, 2020 Historic Preservation Commission meeting to order at 7:05 PM in the Main Meeting Room of the West Milford Town Hall with the reading of the Legal Notice.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Steven Boshart (Chair)

Josephine Beck (Vice-Chair)

Loretta Heusser

Kristen Koerner

Kerry O’Brien

Harry Rescigno

Absent: Brandon Romaine (New)

Secretary: Tonya E. Cubby

**MINUTES**

Following a correction in the minutes with regard to Long Pond and Wallisch, a **motion** was made by Harry Rescigno to **approve** the January 21, 2020 minutes with a **second** by Jo Beck. The Minutes were **approved** by unanimous consent.

**SITES**

**Macopin Homestead – 1299 Macopin Road**

* Chair Steve Boshart spoke to several potential buyers for the Macopin Homestead. He advised them that any aleration would require the submission of a certificate of appropriateness, as well as a review and approval by the HPC. Kerry O’Brien reported at a prior meeting that Ms. Bayer advised him that the historic designation plaque for the Macopin Homestead was given to the Vreeland Store owners for a display at their inn. Loretta Heusser reported that the owner of the Vreeland Store, Fran Lanza, advised that she did not have the plaque for 1299 Macopin Road. Mr. O’Brien noted that the house was scheduled for a sheriff’s auction, but two extension were given and the contents of the house were in the process of being removed. He further advised that prior to her taking residence in a nursing home, Ms. Bayer declined his offer to take the plaque for safekeeping.

**Reid House - 1778 Macopin Road**

* No update on 1778 Macopin Road at this time. The Commission concurred at a prior meeting that the new owner should be apprised of the reason for the designation and be given an opportunity for re-installation of the plaque.

**Long Pond Ironworks**

* Kerry O’Brien reported that the NJ Historic Preservation Office approved the plans for the renovation of the Hewitt Methodist Church at 1334 Greenwood Lake Turnpike. He read the letter dated February 11, 2020 from the NJDEP- HPO which approved the stabilization and rehabilitation of the steeple, which is listing away from the building. The scope of work will also include repairs to the foundation to include reconstruction of the dry-laid foundation walls with mortar on the interior of the walls only, repair and replacement of deteriorated framing members, and the installation of flashing on the side of the steeple to divert water away from the structure. Mr. O’Brien advised that the contractor (Colson?) was revising his quote and they hope to move forward with the work in March. A historic structural report must be prepared prior to grant applications for more renovation funds. He reported that the Parson’s house had collapsed and the remainder of the structure must be removed. He also reported that the green Arts and Crafts house was in serious disrepair.

Mr. O’Brien observed that several of the Council members were under the impression that the Township owned the buildings at Long Pond, but the State confirmed that they are the owners of the site. He noted that there is a new administrator in NJ HPO and they were seeking documentation on Long Pond.

**Wallisch Homestead**

* Kerry O’Brien reported that the Friends of Wallisch intended to submit grant applications for repairs to the barn, but they have to complete the current grant projects before requesting additional funding. He noted that there were 8 metal support columns supporting the barn roof, but they discovered that they did not have footings under the supports, so a structural report has to be completed before commencing. The Building Dept. required an engineering report, so KSI Engineering, who conducted a structural analysis for them last year, will be contacted to complete a report on the barn.
* Jo Beck reported that there were no lights working on any of the buildings at the Wallisch site. Mr. O’Brien advised that he was would look into the electrical connections at the Creamery building. He reported that there were issues with vandals at the farmstead and destruction of the grounds is occurring from atv’s and dirt bikes. He noted that the West Milford Museum has a new camera security system and he will contact the company they used to inquire about a system for the Wallisch site. He further reported that Long Pond had experienced vandalism by several disgruntled visitors who were prevented from swimming at the Mine Hole.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

* The Commission received information from the National Preservation Institute regarding 2020 professional training in historic preservation and cultural resource management in various U.S. locations.
* The Commission received information regarding preservation courses at Rutgers – Camden.
* Jo Beck reported on an art organization that will be exhibiting in the spring at one of the Bravitas Group properties in Montclair. Bravitas is known for converting old churches and buildings into commercial space, while maintaining the historic integrity of the buildings. She will forward the information to the HPC.
* Kerry O’Brien reviewed the information that the Commission received regarding the Historic Marker Program with Passaic County, and reported that the historic site would have to historically significant to qualify for the historic marker designation. Chair Steve Boshart remarked that if the Township and Planning Board wanted the HPC to research the program, we could begin, but it would not be up to the Commission to proceed unless directed. Mr. O’Brien noted that Idylease had a number of well-known/famous people who visited the site over the last century, and feels that it would qualify.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

* The Commission will review the information for inclusion into the CLG Annual Report at the next meeting. Chair Boshart noted that there are links for filing the report.
* The Commission chose May 19, 2020, a regular meeting date, for a field visit to Waterloo Village to observe the restoration of one of the buildings referenced in Wayne McCabe’s presentation last Fall. The Commission’s Secretary will confirm with Mr. McCabe whether this date was convenient for him.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Prior to adjourning, Chair Steve Boshart advised that the next regular meeting was scheduled for March 17, 2020. The meeting **adjourned** at 7:45 pm on a **motion** by Kristen Koerner with a **second** by Loretta Heusser.

Approved: July 21, 2020

Respectfully submitted by

Tonya E. Cubby, Secretary