



**TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**



MINUTES

JANUARY 17, 2023

MAIN MEETING ROOM

Chair Josephine (Jo) Beck called the January 17, 2023 West Milford Historic Preservation Commission meeting to order at 7:00 pm with the reading of the Legal Notice and Roll Call.

ROLL CALL

Present: Josephine Beck (Chair), Kristen Koerner, Kerry O'Brien, Michael Saluga
Absent: Steven Boshart, Brandon Romaine
Secretary: Tonya E. Cubby

MINUTES

The minutes from the November 15, 2022 meeting were unanimously **approved** on a motion by Chair Jo Beck and a second by Michael Saluga.

SITES

- **1299 Macopin Road, B 9402; L 15** – Chair Jo Beck advised that she observed the new windows were installed and the sidewalks completed. Kerry O'Brien noted that the outhouse was still standing. The Commission's Secretary reported on the Building Dept. inspections that had occurred through December. There were several electrical issues noted from the Dec. 5, 2022 rough inspection that were corrected by the contractor and passed by the electrical inspector on Dec. 12, 2022. The framing inspection failed on Nov. 14, 2022 for: concealed spaces need to be fire blocked, the duct chases need to be fire stopped, a framing checklist was required, and the electrical and plumbing rough inspections must pass prior to framing approval.
- **Cahill House, 1453 Macopin Road, B 9501; L 3** – Historic Plaque – The owner reported that the bracket holding the bronze historic marker had rusted and the plaque was removed until the post and bracket can be repaired. Photos were sent by the owner and Kerry O'Brien went to the site to determine what might be needed to reinstall the plaque. The D.P.W. Supervisor was contacted with the photos and advised that he would follow up on this.
- **Hewitt Church:** Kerry O'Brien advised that he is attempting to coordinate with the historian at Ringwood Manor on the information that is required for inclusion of the Hewitt Church as an historic site.
- **Wallisch Homestead:** Brandon Romaine was not in attendance and no updated report was available. It was noted by the Commissioners that there was a Christmas display at the site during the holidays. Chair Jo Beck

commented that several groups share information on social media platforms, so there is good attendance at the Wallisch site events.

COMMUNICATIONS

The following items were reviewed and discussed by the Commission:

- Statewide Historic Preservation Plan 2023-2028 – Chair Jo Beck advised that the Commission would review the new HPP at the next meeting once the Commissioners have had time to review the document. Kerry O'Brien commented that he will commit to reading it through and review it with the Commission at the next meeting. It was noted by the Commissioners that most towns are active in preserving historic buildings, but West Milford has had a practice of waiting until a property owner contacts the Township and HPC before any consideration is taken on historic designation. Mr. O'Brien observed that with many historic sites, there may be too many restrictions and this prohibits movement forward with preservation and restoration projects.
- NJ Historic Preservation Office – Relationship Building in Your Community – The Commission discussed several means for building relationships in the community and promoting preservation efforts. Chair Jo Beck requested that the Commission consider some options that may be used in the Township and they will be discussed at the next meeting. One suggestion was for the Commission's Secretary to send correspondence to new owners of a designated historic site advising of the requirements for maintaining historic status. Kerry O'Brien commented that, in the past, he set up a table on West Milford History at Autumn Lights Festival, but noted that some of the local historic sites have not survived.
- Preservation New Jersey - Semiquin Synergy – New program announced to promote tourism for NJ Semiquincentennial.
- Crossroads of the American Revolution - 25 Million to be invested by the State in American Revolutionary War sites in NJ in preparation for the 2026 Semiquincentennial.
- NJ Historical Commission – NJ Indigenous Education Survey – Kerry O'Brien remarked that this was a good idea and suggested that the HPC and Heritage Committee contact Ed Lenik to offer a joint speaking event since he has conducted extensive historical research, which would include the region's Ramapough Nation. Another suggestion was Donald (Doc) Baynes, who is knowledgeable on regional historical sites. Chair Jo Beck suggested an historic sites program that can be broadcast/streamed on the local cable TV channel, with information on each of the designated historic sites.
- Robert V Peters, Restoration Consultant, Philadelphia, PA. – Kerry O'Brien may reach out to this person about the Hewitt Church.

MISCELLANEOUS / OTHER BUSINESS

- Donation of assorted HPC items/documents from the late Jim Van Hooker – the Heritage Committee received a box of assorted historic documents from

Michael Van Hooker. The Heritage Committee will go through the box for any items that would be beneficial to the HPC.

ADJOURNMENT

- The next regular meeting of the West Milford Historic Preservation Commission was scheduled for February 21, 2023.
- With no further business to discuss, Jo Beck **adjourned** the meeting at 8:15 pm on a **motion** by Kerry O'Brien with a **second** by Kristen Koerner.

Approved: February 21, 2023

Respectfully submitted by

Tonya E. Cubby, Secretary