



TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION



MINUTES

MARCH 21, 2023

MAIN MEETING ROOM

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Vice Chair Kristen Koerner sat in for Chair Josephine (Jo) Beck and called the March 21, 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), Steven Boshart, Kristen Koerner (Vice Chair), Kerry O'Brien, Michael Saluga, Brandon Romaine.  
Absent: None.  
Secretary: Tonya E. Cubby

**MINUTES**

The minutes from the February 21, 2023 meeting were unanimously **approved** on a motion by Kerry O'Brien and a second by Jo Beck.

**SITES**

- **1299 Macopin Road, B 9402; L 15** – The Secretary reported that there have been no new building inspections for 1299 Macopin Road since the last inspection in February, but the renovation work continues.
- **Hewitt Church:** Kerry O'Brien advised that he would be completing the necessary documents for the designation of the Hewitt Church as an historic landmark since the Ringwood Manor staff is involved in numerous other projects at this time.
- **Long Pond Ironworks:** Mr. O'Brien reported that the Friends of Long Pond Ironworks has had administrative changes within the organization. Cleaning dates at Long Pond will be held on April 1 and April 8 prior to opening for the season.
- **Wallisch Homestead:** Kerry O'Brien reported that the Friends of Wallisch Homestead have received approval from the Township Council to file a grant with the Passaic County Historic Trust Regrant Program, requesting \$15,250 for the Wallisch Homestead Historic Preservation Plan – Phase 2. The funds will be used for preparation of an official plan which will include architectural and engineering details of the exterior buildings and interior elements, with assessment of existing conditions and structural issues of all the buildings, as well as adaptive re-use projects, cost estimates for restoration, preservation, rehabilitation, and maintenance. Mr. O'Brien noted that, if the grant is awarded, this new report will be more in depth than the previous report, and it may provide an opportunity for additional grants. He had applied for a grant to have a structural report prepared for the Friends of Wallisch Homestead several years ago. He wished them all the best in the next phase of the project.

Jo Beck inquired if there was any new information about the lead paint chips following painting of the barn. Mr. O'Brien reported that a number of years ago, a lead abatement project was undertaken to remove lead from the skeet shooting that had been held at the site. He advised the members of FOWH about the issues with paint scraping which resulted in paint chips around the foundation of the barn and in the garden, but he had no update.

- **Idylease:** It was reported that the owner of Idylease was in the process of completing interior renovations and posting photos on Facebook. Kerry O'Brien had offered to assist with possible grants, but the owner indicated that he preferred to do the work himself. Mr. O'Brien also received a request for information on the date of Idylease's designation as a local historic landmark. The Commission's Secretary had provided a letter from the Historic Preservation Commission to the late Mrs. Zampella in 2008 indicating that Ordinance #1988-30 established Idylease as an historic site.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

The following items were reviewed and discussed by the Commission:

- Volunteer of the Year Program April 19, 2023 5:30 pm – Jo Beck advised that she would attend to represent the HPC on Volunteer Night.
- Preservation New Jersey – 10 Most Endangered Historic Places – Deadline March 31, 2023 – Jo Beck suggested that Long Pond Ironworks should be nominated as an endangered site. Hans Niederstrasser, who is overseeing the transition of administrative duties at the site, will be advised. Kerry O'Brien recommended that Ringwood State Park be apprised of a potential nomination submission.

### **MISCELLANEOUS / OTHER BUSINESS**

- It was announced that Ed Lenik of the North Jersey Highlands Historical Society, will be holding a book signing at Ringwood Manor on April 2, 2023 for his newly released book "Stories from an Archaeologist's Notebook: Folktales and Memories of the People and Places in the Ramapo Mountains."

### **ADJOURNMENT**

- The next regular meeting of the West Milford Historic Preservation Commission was scheduled for April 18, 2023.
- With no further business to discuss, Krisen Koerner **adjourned** the meeting at 7:45 pm on a **motion** by Steve Boshart with a **second** by Michael Saluga.

Approved: April 18, 2023

Respectfully submitted by

Tonya E. Cubby, Secretary