



**TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**



MINUTES
MAY 17, 2022

MAIN MEETING ROOM

Chair Josephine (Jo) Beck called the May 17, 2022 West Milford Historic Preservation Commission meeting to order at 7:05 pm with a reading of the Legal Notice.

ROLL CALL

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

MINUTES

A **motion** was made by Kerry O'Brien, with a **second** by Brandon Romaine, to approve the April 19, 2022 minutes. The minutes were **approved** by unanimous consent.

HISTORIC SITES

Reid House - 1778 Macopin Road

- The Commission discussed the status of the bronze plaque that had been presented to the prior owner of 1778 Macopin Road upon designation as a local historic site. Former Chair Steve Boshart advised that there was nothing in the ordinance that required the owners of a site to post the plaque. Kristen Koerner suggested that the ordinance should be updated in the future, possibly when the next Historic Preservation Plan is drafted, to include a provision to require that the plaque be maintained on the site. Kerry O'Brien recommended that the site owner should be required to keep the plaque on site or return it to the Township, adding that many homeowners may not want the designation due to an assumption that it would hinder re-sales. The Commission concurred that the current owners would be obligated to notify the new owners of an historic status of a property. Mr. Boshart noted that the Planning Board should be apprised of this issue regarding the plaques when the Master Plan is updated.
- The Commission previously advised that a letter should be sent to the current owners to inquire about the location of the historic designation plaque. A draft of the letter to the current owner was reviewed and approved on a motion by Steve Boshart, with a second by Jo Beck, with a correction to change a reference to the "former owners."

Macopin Homestead – 1299 Macopin Road

- The Commission reviewed the issue of the missing plaque at 1299 Macopin Road, and noted that the former owner had advised that she gave the plaque to the Vreeland Store, but they maintain that they do not have it. Kerry O'Brien commented that, in the future, the Commission may re-consider their actions with regard to historic designations. He motioned to explore the sites that have received plaques and determine which sites have them installed. The discussion continued and Jo Beck read from the ordinance regarding designation and placement of plaques.

Wallisch Homestead

- The Commission reviewed the letter drafted to the Friends of Wallisch Homestead regarding the stabilization of the barns on the site. On a motion by Steve Boshart, with a second by Jo Beck, the Commission approved the correspondence to the FOWH advising that no buildings on the site should be demolished. The letter included comments made at the Commission's March meeting: *Steve Boshart advised that he and the Construction Official, Tim Ligus, recently conducted a site visit at the Wallisch Homestead. They inspected the barns and he recommended that the barns should be stabilized and the trees and shrubs around the buildings should be cleaned up. He noted that the buildings can be raised up and foundations built under the structures. He maintained that the Friends of Wallisch should not raze the buildings on the site, and noted that they do not have the authority to do so.*
- The FOWH have been using the Museum archival documents to research for a grant. Kerry O'Brien made copies of certain files and assisted with the research. Jo Beck has photos from Hungary with Wallisch relatives and offered to share them for the research project.
- It was announced that an art show was planned for the upcoming weekend at the Wallisch Homestead. Mr. O'Brien observed the outhouse, as well as some other buildings, were being stained/painted at the site, and Brandon Romaine commented that they were supposed to be removing weeds and brush from the buildings.

Long Pond Ironworks

- Kerry O'Brien reported that the historian at Ringwood Manor filed the documents with the NJ State Historic Preservation Office requesting the inclusion of the Hewitt Church into the Long Pond Ironworks Historic District. He noted that they were trying to expand the historic district to include the church, rather than just including the church in the existing historic district. Grant funds are pending if historic designation of the church is received. Mr. O'Brien reviewed that the church is historically significant due to the discovery that the building was constructed from a

mail order plan, and the State is interested in the site. They were under the assumption that it would be a fairly simple revision, but it is more complicated than originally thought. He reported previously that two grants have been obtained for work on the Hewitt Church, one for an architectural/structural study on the building, and one for actual (bricks and mortar) work at the site.

West Milford Museum

- The Heritage Committee has approved the payment of the cost (\$1720+) for reformatting the old HPC tapes, but they need 3 quotes for submission to the Finance Dept. Jo Beck recommended Legacy Box and Video Express, but one more quote is needed. Tonya Cubby will reach out to Bob Moshman to inquire if this is something that the George Eckhardt Fund would consider as a donation.

MISCELLANEOUS / OTHER BUSINESS

- Jo Beck tried numerous times to contact Wayne McCabe, Sussex County historian, regarding a program that he could offer for the Commission, as well as an update on the projects and potential tour at a restoration site at Waterloo Village.
- Kerry O'Brien was congratulated by the Commission for being awarded the Lifetime Volunteer Award for 2021.

The following correspondence was reviewed by the Commission:

CORRESPONDENCE

- NJ History & Historic Preservation Annual Conference – Trenton - 06-03-22

ADJOURNMENT

- The next regular meeting of the West Milford Historic Preservation Commission was scheduled for June 21, 2022.
- With no further business to discuss, Jo Beck **adjourned** the meeting at 8:05 pm on a **motion** by Steve Boshart with a **second** by Kristen Koerner.

Approved: June 21, 2022

Respectfully submitted by

Tonya E. Cubby, Secretary