



**TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**



MINUTES

OCTOBER 20, 2020

MAIN MEETING ROOM

Chair Steven Boshart called the October 20, 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 (Jo) Beck (Vice-Chair)
Kristen Koerner
Kerry O'Brien
Harry Rescigno
Brandon Romaine

Absent: Loretta Heusser

Secretary: Tonya E. Cubby

MINUTES

A **motion** was made by Kerry O'Brien to approve the September 15, 2020 minutes, with a **second** by Harry Rescigno, with a correction noted on the month and also for misspelling Wosyluk. The Minutes were **approved** by unanimous consent.

SITES

Historic Sites Map

- The Commissioners were provided with the Historic Sites Map that was originally prepared by the former GIS Specialist, Rob Sparkes, in 2002. It was noted that the map should be updated to indicate that the structures at New City, as well as the Tichenor House, have been demolished.

Macopin Homestead – 1299 Macopin Road

- There was no update available on this site. The Commission noted that the house appears to be neglected and is not being maintained. The bronze plaque is missing from the site.

Reid House - 1778 Macopin Road

- There was no update available on this site other than what had been reported at the September meeting. The bronze plaque is still missing from the original location.

Long Pond Ironworks

- Kerry O'Brien reported that the contractor had finished the structural repairs on the steeple at the Hewitt M.E. Church. The copper finial was in the process of being reproduced and should be completed within the next month. He further reported that he had prepared a grant for a historic structure report, and thanked the Historic Preservation Commission Chair, Steve Boshart, for his assistance with an architectural report required for the grant.

Wallisch Homestead

- Chair Steve Boshart commented that the Wallisch Homestead appeared to be having more events lately, and the site is well maintained. He noted that the activity and continual use at the site helps to keep perpetrators at bay. Jo Beck concurred that the grounds have been well kept, but observed there are still some issues with ATVs accessing the site.
- Kerry O'Brien reported that the work on the Wallisch Barn floor has been completed, following excavating 4 feet and installing rebar for the columns to be mounted. He noted that the research and excavation revealed poor soil for footings. He reported that Ron Perez of Friends of Wallisch Homestead had sent an email to the Township thanking Tim Ligus, Construction Official, for his assistance in getting the permits processed and inspections completed. Mr. O'Brien further reported that circuit boards and conduit were installed under the cement by Freedom Electric for access to the electrical outlets. Jo Beck inquired if there will be an Art Show this year, and Mr. O'Brien responded that there may be a "barn sale" in the coming months.
- With regard to the Creamery building, the doors and windows will be repaired/replaced by Eric Coulsen, the contractor who repaired the Hewitt Church steeple. A stone mason will be contracted to repair the stone walls and join them with the floor.
- Chair Steve Boshart inquired about the Wallisch house, and Mr. O'Brien said that there was a sump pump installed in the basement, the porch and roof had been repaired, and the house is fairly sealed up. Mr. Boshart noted that the house was included on a 2010 list from Preservation New Jersey noting some of the most endangered historic structures. He recognized the great amount of work that has been completed in the past 10 years.

West Milford Museum

- Kerry O'Brien reported that he contacted a contractor to provide a bid on reinforcing the dry laid stone foundation with grout from the rear of the stones. Additional quotes are needed for painting and roofing.

Idylease

- Steve Boshart noted that he had no updated information about Idylease. Kerry O'Brien observed that the owner had posted information about the site on social media in the past, but has not done so recently.

Apple Acres

- The Commission concurred that the Apple Acres site was being well maintained, with a portion utilized for a community garden.

Vreeland Store

- Steve Boshart observed that the Vreeland Store had ongoing activities and events, including a recent Autumn festival, and the site continues to be maintained by the owners.

Morse/Carpignano House

- The Commission concurred that the house has been well maintained.

Fred Vreeland House

- Steve Boshart reported that this house was being maintained by the owners.

Cahill House (Parrot Homestead)

- The Commission noted that the house was in good condition and the owners were maintaining the property.

The following correspondence was reviewed by the Commission:

CORRESPONDENCE

Historic Preservation Office Climate Change Resource Center Webinars:

10/13/20 - Flood Planning & Preparedness for New Jersey Historic Buildings;
11/10/20 12-1:30 – Protecting Historic Residences From Flooding: Building Elevations

MISCELLANEOUS / OTHER BUSINESS

- The Commission Secretary advised the Commission that John Fredericks had inquired whether the Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church had been considered for local historic designation. Chair Steve Boshart advised that the TAM Study completed in the 1980's had identified all the sites that were potential historic sites. Kristen Koerner inquired whether there was anything precluding churches and Township properties from historic designation, and Mr. Boshart suggested that they may be exempt for consideration, but this would have to be looked into. Following discussion, Mr. Boshart advised that he would review the historic sites surveys in the TAM Study to see if the Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church would qualify. The Commission suggested that a copy of the Historic Preservation Commission booklet be given to Mr. Fredericks.

- During discussion, Harry Rescigno remarked that the Morris Canal used to own Belchers Creek since it provided direct access to Greenwood Lake. He suggested that the Township contact Joe McKasick of the Morris Canal Commission to inquire if they would be interested in providing funds for work on Belchers Creek. Mr. Rescigno had provided copies of his postcard collection to the Museum several years ago, but he would like to donate the original collection prior to his move, which may be sometime in January.
- The Commission unanimously approved an annual membership for Preservation New Jersey organization in the amount of \$100.00 on a motion by Brandon Romaine and a second by Harry Rescigno. The Commission observed that it was Preservation New Jersey's acknowledgement and publication of the deteriorated condition of the Wallisch Homestead, and listing it as one of the 10 most endangered historic sites in New Jersey, that brought attention to the site and encouraged its ultimate revival.
- Kerry O'Brien reported that The Highlands Coalition group donated \$2000. recently to Long Pond Ironworks.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Steven Boshart advised that the next regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was scheduled for November 17, 2020. The meeting **adjourned** at 7:55 pm on a **motion** by Steven Boshart with a **second** by Harry Rescigno.

Approved:

Respectfully submitted by

Tonya E. Cubby, Secretary