



TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION



MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 20, 2022

MAIN MEETING ROOM

Chair Josephine (Jo) Beck called the September 20, 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), Steven Boshart, Kerry O'Brien, Brandon Romaine, Michael Saluga
Absent: Kristen Koerner
Secretary: Tonya E. Cubby

MINUTES

The minutes from the August 16, 2022 meeting were unanimously **approved** on a motion by Kerry O'Brien and a second by Michael Saluga.

SITES

- **1299 Macopin Road, B 9402; L 15, Certificate of Appropriateness - Interior and Exterior Modifications** – Several of the Commissioners had reviewed the plans submitted for renovations at 1299 Macopin Road at the prior meeting in August. Steven Boshart, who was unavailable for the last meeting, reviewed the plans submitted by the applicant for a determination with regard to the Certificate of Appropriateness. Based on the plans submitted, prepared by Evans Architects, dated 03-29-22, and the applicant's presence at the meeting to discuss the project on August 16, 2022, the Commission concurred that the alterations will not have a negative impact on the historic character of the house.

Steven Boshart motioned for the **approval** of the Certificate of Appropriateness for the renovation of 1299 Macopin Road, seconded by Chair Josephine Beck. Alterations will include an interior remodel, with exterior window flashing and trim to be changed from dark green to black, repair of the front steps and paving the driveway and walkway. The exterior outbuildings are to remain. All members present voted in the affirmative. Correspondence with a copy of the signed Certificate of Appropriateness will be mailed by the Commission's Secretary to the new owners.

- **Hewitt Church:** Kerry O'Brien reported that the officials at Ringwood State Park are working with the NJ Historic Preservation Office with regard to designation of the Hewitt Church as an historic landmark.
- **Long Pond Ironworks:** Mr. O'Brien announced that a performance of historical tunes and folk music by balladeer Linda Russell will be held on October 8, 2022

at Long Pond Ironworks. Long Pond Ironworks also held their Civil War Living History Weekend and Lantern Tours with the 6th New Hampshire Volunteer Re-enactment group in September.

- **Wallisch Homestead:** Mr. O'Brien reported that several contractors had volunteered to sand the floors in the Creamery building at the Wallisch Homestead.
- **West Milford Museum:** Kerry O'Brien has submitted a grant request to the Passaic County Cultural & Heritage Council for historic musical performances at the West Milford Museum in 2023. Notifications of the grant awards will be available in October. It was noted that the Museum is in need of painting and stone foundation repair. Mr. O'Brien visited an historic site on the Delaware River and spoke with a stone mason in an attempt to obtain more information and contacts about repairs to the Museum's dry laid stone foundation.

COMMUNICATIONS

The following items were reviewed and discussed by the Commission:

- Preservation New Jersey Newsletter Aug. 31, 2022
- NJDOT – Route 23 Roadway Rehabilitation Project correspondence dated 09-02-22 requesting advisement of any historic resources in the project area and desire to participate in the Section 106 process (Nat'l Historic Preservation Act): Resurface pavement on Route 23 between High Crest Drive and Macopin River (MP 17.20 and MP 17.84); regrading and widening of "S" limits; close and realign southbound to northbound Smoke Rise median U-turn ramp; reconfigure other median turns; replace substandard guardrails; replace existing curbs; construct drainage basins at MP 17.73 and MP 19.55 to meet stormwater management requirements.

The Commission reviewed the documents submitted by the NJDOT and advised that there were no concerns with the proposed project and any impacts on historical resources in this Rt 23 corridor. The only site that once had historical significance was the New City Historic District, owned by Newark Watershed, but all the buildings have been demolished and it is essentially non-existent. Mr. O'Brien noted that several years ago there was another project related to the Rt. 23 corridor, and the Commission was also notified.

- The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation & Guidelines on Flood Adaptation for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings – 2021 Edition was received by the Commission and the members reviewed the publication, noting that it was more applicable to communities prone to frequent flooding events. The publication will be on file in the Planning Dept.

MISCELLANEOUS / OTHER BUSINESS

- Chair Jo Beck commented on some of the native stone formations in and around the Township that are actually old trail markers and indicators of sacred sites. Steve Boshart noted that they are archeological sites and would

not be considered historic sites. Mr. O'Brien remarked that since they are not a building structure, they would not be a consideration for historic designation. He further observed that Ed Lenik of the North Jersey Highlands Historical Society has written books and periodically conducts tours on the ancient stone outcroppings in the region.

- Commissioner Michael Saluga inquired whether the members knew of anyone interested in purchasing civil war weapons/memorabilia. It was suggested that one of the Heritage Committee members is involved with Civil War re-enactments and may be interested.

ADJOURNMENT

- The next regular meeting of the West Milford Historic Preservation Commission was scheduled for October 18, 2022.
- With no further business to discuss, Jo Beck **adjourned** the meeting at 7:50pm on a **motion** by Brandon Romain with a **second** by Steve Boshart.

Approved: October 18, 2022

Respectfully submitted by

Tonya E. Cubby, Secretary