



**TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**



MINUTES

FEBRUARY 16, 2021

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

Chair Steven Boshart called the February 16, 2021 West Milford Historic Preservation Commission meeting to order at 7:00 pm with a reading of the Legal Notice. The meeting was held virtually, via Zoom.

ROLL CALL

Present: Steven Boshart (Chair), Josephine Beck (Vice-Chair)
Kristen Koerner, Kerry O'Brien, Brandon Romaine

Absent: Loretta Heusser
Harry Rescigno

Secretary: Tonya E. Cubby

MINUTES

A **motion** was made by Kerry O'Brien to approve the January 19, 2021 minutes, with a **second** by Kristen Koerner. The Minutes were **approved** by unanimous consent.

SITES

Macopin Homestead – 1299 Macopin Road

- There was no update available on this site.

Reid House - 1778 Macopin Road

- Chair Steven Boshart advised that he was in contact with a relative of Pete Wosyluk Sr. and he may be in Florida, but he will reach out to him regarding the missing historic plaque.

Long Pond Ironworks

- Kerry O'Brien reported that a consultant would be completing an historic structure report for the Hewitt Church at Long Pond Ironworks with funds provided through a Preservation NJ grant, and he would provide a copy of the report to the Commission for review. Mr. O'Brien further advised that another grant application due in April would be for the "bricks and mortar" work that will be necessary for the remainder of the building. Painting/staining will be done after the historic structure report is submitted. The contractor who worked on the steeple repairs will apply the sealant to the cedar shingles, and complete some of the other repairs to the building. The Chair commented that it will be nice to see the site restored,

especially for people driving into the Township on Greenwood Lake Turnpike.

Wallisch Homestead

- Kerry O'Brien referred to a letter provided to the Commission from the Friends of Wallisch Homestead (FOWH), dated February 14, 2021, regarding the development of a master plan of short and long term projects being considered for the Wallisch site. The correspondence requests input and direction from the HPC, and is summarized with the following:

FOWH is seeking the Historic Preservation Commission's approval to paint the barn and garage, reroof the garage, and repair the doors & windows on the stone barn and creamery. FOWH assumes that the interior work is permitted without HPC review and approval, but input is requested.

FOWH would appreciate the HPC's input on other projects under discussion, such as relocating the outhouse and ice house from the side of the garage to the front to make them more visually appealing and accessible to visitors.

FOWH is concerned about the deteriorated condition of the wood barn, and will request a Township inspection, but it may need to be removed for structural and safety issues. FOWH requests guidance from the HPC regarding this.

A list of the proposed projects were reviewed by the Commission (attached). Mr. O'Brien noted that to avoid any question of conflict of interest, he will excuse himself from voting as a Commissioner on matters related to these projects.

The Commissioners made several inquiries regarding the list of projects for the Wallisch site, and discussed proposed paint colors for the structures (white) and the relocation of structures and outbuildings. The Chair remarked that the ordinance would have to be reviewed to determine if there are any regulations regarding the relocation of accessory buildings on an historic site. Kristen Koerner commented that there was a similar situation with the Vreeland Store site and the relocation of the outbuildings. Mr. O'Brien opined that the buildings on the Wallisch property may have been moved to the rear from another located, based on the historic photos that he had of the site. He expressed concern about the stability of the redwood post and beam barn, and public events at the Wallisch site may present a safety issue. Mr. Boshart recommended staking and installing hazard fencing around the barn, but suggested that the fence should match the garden fence or some similar material that would be appropriate for the site. He also recommended that the Township Construction Official be consulted regarding stabilization of the barn. With regard to the interior plans for the stone barn, Mr. Boshart advised that mutual agreement between the Township and FOWH should be reached,

but no approval from the HPC was required. An emergency stairway at the back of the stone barn would be acceptable since it is not visible from the front of the building. The Chair thanked Mr. O'Brien for compiling the list for the Commission to review. Mr. O'Brien noted that once the snow melts, he will conduct a tour of the Wallisch Homestead for the Commission.

Mr. O'Brien reported that he was in contact with Preservation NJ and they will be initiating a new program to follow up on historic preservation projects. He also reported that Skylands magazine is interested in publishing an article about the Wallisch Homestead.

The following correspondence was reviewed by the Commission:

CORRESPONDENCE

- New Jersey Historic Trust 2021 Historic Site Management grant program, Grant deadline 04-29-21.
- Preserving the Wildwoods – St. Ann's Rectory Demolition – 02-11-21.
- Preservation New Jersey – Historic Preservation Achievement Awards – 02-29-21 at 3pm on Go To Meeting.
- NJ Women's History Virtual Tours – links on email.

MISCELLANEOUS / OTHER BUSINESS

- Jo Beck reported that she inquired about having past HPC meeting tapes converted into digital files, but her source did not do this type of work.
- Kerry O'Brien reported that a meeting will be held with Passaic County regarding Heritage Tourism and he will share the powerpoint presentation with the Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

- Chair Steven Boshart advised that the next regular meeting of the West Milford Historic Preservation Commission was scheduled for March 16, 2021. With no further business to discuss, the meeting **adjourned** at 7:55 pm on a **motion** by Kerry O'Brien with a **second** by Kristen Koerner.

Approved: March 16, 2021

Respectfully submitted by

Tonya E. Cubby, Secretary