



**TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**



MINUTES

FEBRUARY 15, 2022

MAIN MEETING ROOM

Chair Josephine (Jo) Beck called the February 15, 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.
Absent: None.
Secretary: Tonya E. Cubby

MINUTES

A **motion** was made by Kerry O'Brien to approve the November 2021 minutes, with a **second** by Kristen Koerner. The minutes were **approved** by unanimous consent. The minutes for December were unavailable for approval. It was noted that the December meeting was held in conjunction with the Heritage Committee meeting at the WM Museum on December 14, 2021.

SITES

Reid House - 1778 Macopin Road

- Jo Beck reported that there was no update on this historic site, nor the status of the missing historic site plaque. The Commission recommended that a letter be sent to the new owners to inquire about the location of the plaque if we are unable to obtain information from the former owner. The Commission's Secretary will speak to the former owner when he is in the Building Dept. for permits for his business.

Macopin Homestead - 1299 Macopin Road

- There is no updated information on the status of the house.

Long Pond Ironworks

- Kerry O'Brien advised that there was nothing new on the Hewitt Church since he gave an update at the prior meeting. He had reported that the Hewitt Church was not part of the [Long Pond] historic district and is not a designated historic site. He noted that Sue Shutte, the historian from Ringwood Manor, is working on the status of the site with the State. He attended a grant workshop the prior week and there will be two years to sign the grant and 2 years to complete the work.
- Mr. O'Brien reported that the bridge over the stream at Long Pond Ironworks is collapsing and is currently closed for walking and driving. This is the bridge located before the furnaces and was previously used for vehicle access. Mr. O'Brien noted that a grant has been submitted for the Haesencleaver

Trail, but the NJDEP advised that if the bridge is not able to accommodate vehicles, the grant may not be available.

Wallisch Homestead

- Steven Boshart advised that he will meet with Tim Ligus, Construction Official, as soon as their schedules permit. A resolution was adopted recently by the Governing Body waiving all fees for zoning permits and fire inspections for the Wallisch site.
- Kerry O'Brien had received information that the small red barn was proposed for demolition. The Commission suggested that a memo be sent to the Friends of Wallisch not to take the barn down until Steve Boshart and Tim Ligus have had an opportunity to do a site visit and inspect the structure. The Commissioners noted that benign neglect is a common practice when an historic structure no longer serves a purpose, and non-maintenance becomes justification for removal the structure.
- Kerry O'Brien acknowledged Preservation New Jersey for including Wallisch Homestead on their list of the 10 sites in danger of being lost, and the eventual preservation of the site.

West Milford Museum

- The exterior of the WM Museum is in need of painting as well as some clapboard repair. The Committee will require 3 quotes to be submitted for approval by the Township. One quote was received by Romeo Painting contractors but will need to be updated for 2022.
- The Heritage Committee is seeking stone masons to repair and "shore up" the dry laid stone foundation. Members were requested to provide information on any contractors that may be contacted for quotes. Steve Boshart requested a reminder email since he may have information on some stone masons.

Other Historic Sites

- Steve Boshart reported that the Vreeland Store is in need of painting. The Commissioners concurred that if the building isn't painted by the Spring, the owner can be contacted. He noted that the business was closed for while for some interior renovations.

MISCELLANEOUS / OTHER BUSINESS

- Jo Beck reported on the business that can reproduce tapes, and they have done a great job on her personal photos/recordings being converted to digital formats. The Commissioners discussed the possibility of the Heritage Committee paying for the cost to convert the tapes, depending on the price per tape. The Secretary had the company, Video Express?, added to the Township's list of approved vendors in anticipation of using their services. It was noted that the disaster preparedness seminars and publications all stress the importance of backups of records, and this would be in keeping with the recommendations.

- Kerry O'Brien reported on the NJ Preservation Plan meeting that he recently attended. He noted that it was mainly a brainstorming meeting and there were many good ideas presented. A draft plan will be available in the Spring 2022, and although there may not be anything concrete in the plan at this time, it will be interesting to review the draft. He noted that the ideas presented by the panel will all incur costs. One of the more important points expressed at the meeting, which included about 25 attendees on the Zoom call, was the need to get the K thru 12 students involved in history and history related activities and events.

The following correspondence was reviewed by the Commission:

CORRESPONDENCE

- Zoning Permit application received for installation of 4 ft fence in rear of 1453 Macopin Road, Block 9501; Lot 3 (Cahill House/Parrot Homestead) – The Commission reviewed the documents provided by the Secretary and noted that the fence is in the rear of the house, but a portion may be visible from the road. Jo Beck will drive to the site to check into this. The Secretary was to review the zoning permit to see if the type of fence was indicated.
- NJ State Council of the Arts – Capital Arts Grant - Deadline 02-17-22
- Preservation New Jersey – Winter 2022 Newsletter
- New Jersey Statewide Historic Preservation Plan – Stakeholder Meeting #3 - 02-15-22, 3 pm
- CLG Annual Report Due March 2022
- NJCAR – New Jersey Cultural Alliance for Response – Disaster Planning for Libraries and Cultural Institutions – February 15, 2022, 2 to 4 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

- The next regular meeting of the West Milford Historic Preservation Commission was scheduled for March 15, 2022.
- With no further business to discuss, the meeting **adjourned** at 8:00 pm on a **motion** by Kerry O'Brien with a **second** by Steve Boshart.

Approved: March 15, 2022

Respectfully submitted by

Tonya E. Cubby, Secretary