

Historic Preservation Commission
Monthly Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2020

- Call to Order

Chairperson Pat Fisher-Olsen called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm. She announced that all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act have been met, and that this meeting had been duly advertised.

- Roll Call

In attendance were Commissioners Pat Fisher-Olsen, Alan Harwick, Erin Brennan, Jim Carden, Herb Fischer, Chuck Waters, John Woodward and Alternate Commissioners Dana Maurer and Stephen Nees.

Chairperson Fisher-Olsen welcomed Stephen Nees to the Commission. He was recently appointed to the Commission by the Township Committee as the second alternate commissioner.

- 2020 Organizational Matters

- *Election of Officers*

Chair: Nomination made by Alan Harwick to elect Pat Fisher-Olsen Chair of the Commission, seconded by Erin Brennan; approved by vote of P. Fisher-Olsen, A. Harwick, E. Brennan, J. Carden, H. Fischer, C. Waters and J. Woodward.

Vice-Chair: Nomination made by John Woodward to elect Alan Harwick Vice-Chair of the Commission, seconded by Chuck Waters, approved by vote of P. Fisher-Olsen, A. Harwick, E. Brennan, J. Carden, H. Fischer, C. Waters and J. Woodward.

Secretary: Nomination made by John Woodward to elect Erin Brennan Secretary of the Commission, seconded by Jim Carden, approved by vote of P. Fisher-Olsen, A. Harwick, E. Brennan, J. Carden, H. Fischer, C. Waters and J. Woodward.

- *2020 Meeting Schedule*

Chair Fisher-Olsen presented the 2020 meeting schedule to the Commission for approval, noting that the Commission would continue to meet on the second Tuesday of each month.

Motion made by Herb Fischer to accept the schedule as presented to the Commission, seconded by John Woodward, approved by vote of P. Fisher-Olsen, A. Harwick, E. Brennan, J. Carden, H. Fischer, C. Waters and J. Woodward.

- Minutes. The commissioners reviewed the draft minutes from the December 10, 2019 meeting. Alan Harwick moved that the minutes be approved as submitted. John Woodward seconded the motion. All were in favor. Herb Fischer abstained.

- Historic Preservation Commission Design Reviews
 - Whitehouse-Mechanicsville Historic District
 - BI 14 L 29
 - 115 Old Highway 28
 - Whitehouse, NJ
 - Owners: Ryland Inn Property LLC
 - Represented by: Jose Carballo, architect
 - Jennifer Sofia, Landmark Developers
 - Review: Building Design Change

The applicant returned to the Commission with revised drawings for the restoration of “The Barns” at the Ryland Inn. In response to the Commission’s concerns expressed at the December 10, 2019 meeting. The revised design of the port-cochere retains the free-standing stone wall, reminiscent of the original ruined barn, but replaces the industrial truss-like roof with a lighter and airier style. The Commissioners discussed the application.

Mr. Carballo noted that the stone wall would be constructed of real stone, similar to that found in the area. Chair Fisher-Olsen requested to see samples of the stone and the mortar.

Motion by Erin Brennan to approve the application as submitted, subject to the Commission’s approval of materials, in particular the stone and mortar. Alan Harwick seconded the motion. Approved by vote of P. Fisher-Olsen, A. Harwick, E. Brennan, J. Carden, H. Fischer, C. Waters and J. Woodward.

Vice-Chair Harwick then asked the applicants about their progress with the approval of the original “R” on the silo. Mr. Carballo noted that they still had not received the approval. Both Vice-Chair Harwick and Chair Fisher-Olsen advised that since the “R” was a part of the original building admitted to the National Register District, it should have been grandfathered and therefore permissible.

- Old Business
 - *Historic Districts Audit:* Chair Fisher-Olsen presented copies of the completed audit to the commissioners. She also noted that the historic district maps were currently at Clarke Caton and Hintz.
 - *Three Bridges National Register Application:* ongoing.
 - *Woodchurch Cemetery:* Vice-Chair Harwick advised that the project is stalled because a number of large, old-growth, dead trees are endangering the gravestones and have to be cut down. The cost involved to remove the trees is prohibitive.

- New Business
 - Chair Fisher-Olsen asked the Commissioners to propose objectives for 2020. She noted that first on the list would be the Three Bridges National Register nomination. Also considered was a plan to photograph every township property in a Local/National/State historic district. The commissioners further discussed how best to archive the materials.

Erin Brennan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alan Harwick seconded the motion. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Erin Brennan.