

Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2023

- **Call to Order**

Pat Fisher-Olsen called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm. She announced that all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act have been met, and that this meeting had been duly advertised. The meeting was held at the Readington Township Municipal Building.

- **Roll Call**

In attendance were Commissioners Pat Fisher-Olsen, Alan Harwick, Erin Brennan, Jim Carden, Sarah John, and Chuck Waters. Commissioner Steve Nees was absent due to a COVID-19 exposure; Alternate Commissioners Dana Maurer and Herb Fischer were absent.

- **Organizational Matters**

- **New Member** Pat Fisher-Olsen welcomed Sarah John as the newest member of the Commission, replacing John Woodward.
- **Elections**
 - **Chairperson:** Alan Harwick moved that Pat Fisher-Olsen be elected chairperson of the Commission. Chuck Waters seconded the motion. Motion to approve by A. Harwick, E. Brennan, J. Carden, S. John, and C. Waters. P. Fisher-Olsen voted no.
 - **Vice-Chair:** Erin Brennan moved that Alan Harwick be elected vice-chair of the Commission. Jim Carden seconded the motion. All were in favor.
 - **Secretary:** Pat Fisher-Olsen moved that Erin Brennan be elected secretary of the Commission. Jim Carden seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- **Meeting Schedule** Chairperson Fisher-Olsen presented the proposed meeting schedule for 2023 to the Commission. Motion to approve by Alan Harwick and seconded by Chuck Waters. All were in favor.

- **Historic Preservation Commission Design Reviews**

Stanton Historic District

BL 50 L 1
Contractor: Momentum Solar
Review: Solar installation

The applicant returned to the Commission with an updated plan to the solar panel installation originally approved by the Commission on June 28, 2022. The solar array is being relocated

from the southeast corner of the property to the north (Dreahook Road) side of the property so as not to disturb the access to the hayfield of the neighboring farmer. The Commission reviewed the updated plans.

The commissioners questioned the screening capability of the existing white pines and recommended adding evergreen bushes or grasses to the landscape plan.

Motion made by Jim Carden to approve the application as submitted, with the exception that additional plantings be added to the Dreahook Road side of the installation in accordance with Section 148-60.2 of the Municipal Code to supplement the screening provided by the white pines. Alan Harwick seconded the motion. Motion approved by: Pat Fisher-Olsen, Alan Harwick, Erin Brennan, Jim Carden, Sarah John, and Chuck Waters.

- **Minutes.**

December 13, 2022. Alan Harwick moved that the minutes from the December 13th meeting be approved as submitted. Chuck Waters seconded the motion. All were in favor with the exception of the abstention of Sarah John.

- **Other Business.**

- **Local District Signage:** The signs are ready but Commissioner Nees has requested help (via Pat Fisher-Olsen) to bring them to the Township Public Works. Commissioner Waters will contact Commissioner Nees.
- **Historic District Packet:** Chair Fisher-Olsen noted that the information packet being distributed to new residents of the historic districts had been suspended but will resume in 2023.
- **Bouman-Stickney Farmstead Porch:** Chair Fisher-Olsen advised the Commission that the Museum Director, Margaret Smith, had requested the Commission for a letter in support of the Museums' application for an Open Space Trust Grant. The Museums are applying for a grant in the amount of \$175,000 to be used to rebuild the screened porch.
- **Darts Mill:** Chair Fisher-Olsen commented on the Township's acquisition of Darts Mill and reminded the commissioners that any modification to the property would require approval from the State Historic Preservation Office.
- **Whitehouse-Mechanicsville B17 L8:** Commissioner Harwick gave an update on the status of this property. He noted that the renovation of the property is stalled due to the prior owner's ongoing litigation relating to this property.
- **Three Bridges B92 L2:** Commissioner Brennan noted that construction work had not yet started on this property. Chair Fisher-Olsen advised that the owners had encountered zoning issues as the property is in a commercial zone. They are

working with the township planner. Chair Fisher-Olsen will try to obtain further information.

- **Adjourn.** Alan Harwick made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jim Carden seconded the motion. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Erin Brennan