

Historic Preservation Commission

May 6, 2013 Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm.

Roll Call

Present

Yvonne Beatrice  
Jack Bolan  
Deborah Grob  
Leda Dunn- Wettre  
Ronald Wohlberg  
Barbara Shanley

Absent

Carol Greene, excused  
Randall Brewster, excused  
Gus Vasiliadis, excused

**Flag Salute**

**Sunshine Law:** The secretary read the Sunshine Law.

Mr. Bolan moved to close the minutes for the Joyce Kilmer Poetry Contest awards presentation and Mrs. Beatrice seconded the motion. All approved. The meeting closed at 7:45 p.m.

Mrs. Grob moved to re-open the HPC meeting and Ms. Dunn-Wettre seconded the motion. All approved. The HPC meeting resumed at 8:50 p.m.

Minutes: Ms. Dunn-Wettre corrected the spelling of her name under Apple Ridge Cemetery.

Mrs. Grob moved to approve the April 1, 2013 minutes as corrected and Mrs. Beatrice seconded the motion. All approved.

Public Session: Mrs. Beatrice moved to open the public session and Ms. Dunn-Wettre seconded the motion. All approved.

The Chair recognized several Mahwah High School students who were attending the HPC meeting as a project for their history class. The students stated that although they lived in Mahwah for most of their lives, they did not realize the historic significance Mahwah played in the history of the area and thanked the Commission for allowing them to attend the HPC meeting. The Chair gave the students a summary of the duties of the HPC and its mission to identify and protect historic sites, and thanked the students for attending the HPC meeting.

Mrs. Beatrice moved to close the public session and Mrs. Grob seconded the motion. All approved,

**Old News**

Apple Ridge Cemetery: The Chair recognized Ms. Dunn-Wettre. Ms. Dunn-Wettre reported that she had met with Apple Ridge representative, Mr. Gary Paton, and was able to take pictures of 10 identifiable graves. She reported that there are possibly a total of 40 graves at the location, the oldest dates back to the 1700's. Ms. Dunn-Wettre reported that she discovered that Cynthia Hesdra was buried there. Cynthia Hesdra was born a free black woman, but was enslaved until her husband bought her freedom. Cynthia Hesdra became very wealthy in the cleaning and loan businesses and was active in the underground railroad. Ms. Dunn-Wettre plans to continue her research and will report back to the Commission on her findings. However, since the Apple Ridge Condo Association is private, she is dependent on Mr.

Paton to obtain access. The Chair suggested that she contact Judy Coughlin, whose family lived in that area. The Chair will ask Mrs. Greene for Mrs. Coughlin's address.

### **Chair's Report**

Apple Ridge, Fisher Road Cemetery: No further report.

Aronow Place: The Chair reported that she had stopped by the property, but has no further update on the progress of the restoration.

Old Train Station Museum; Wanamaker Shed and Glasgow Outhouse:

The Chair reported that as promised the DPW cleaned up around the caboose, shed and outhouse, with the help of Mahwah Museum member, Tom O'Brien. As a result, it confirmed that the shed needs restoration from termite damage, and roof repair and the outhouse is in need of restoration. The DPW will lay a new cement pad for the Glasgow outhouse. Mr. Wohlberg will meet with Mahwah Museum member, Tom O'Brien, to develop plans for renovating the outhouse and submit the plans, and material list and cost analysis to the Commission for its approval. Mrs. Grob, Ms. Dunn-Wettre, and Mrs. Shanley volunteered to work with Mr. Wohlberg on this project. The tentative completion date is prior to the September 2013 Mahwah Day.

### **Applications:**

New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, Docket 1354-12

The Chair reported that she had attended the Zoning Board of Adjustment(BOA) May 2, 2013 meeting and reported that NYNJTC submitted its restoration plans to the BOA which included a roof height variance. The Chair reviewed the plans prior to the BOA meeting and reported to the BOA that the HPC is in agreement with the NYNJTC roof height variance in order to maintain the historic integrity of the Darlington Schoolhouse. The Chair reported that the BOA approved the variances. However, she felt that it should be noted that the HPC Commission also approved the roof height variance in order to maintain the historic integrity of the building. The Commission agreed that Mrs. Shanley and Mrs. Grob will create a draft resolution approving the roof line height variance and send a copy to the members and BOA.

Vote: 6, yes; 0 no; 0 abstain: Bolan, yes; Beatrice, yes; Grob, yes; Dunn-Wettre, yes; Wohlberg, yes; Shanley, yes.

The Chair reported that the Ackerman House use application was also on the May 2, 2013 BOA meeting. The Chair spoke on behalf of the Commission stating that the Ackerman Farm House is one of the last farm houses in Mahwah, and has historic significance to the farming era in Mahwah. Therefore, the Chair requested that any changes to the house be submitted to the Commission for its review and recommendation. The Chair requested that the owners list the property on the Township ordinance. BOA members approved the use variance, with the stipulation that any improvements to the exterior of the house and well will need to be approved by the HPC.

**NJDEP:** none at this time.

Mrs. Beatrice moved to adjourn the meeting and Mrs. Grob seconded the motion. All approved.

These minutes are a synopsis of the MHPC tapes, which are on file at the Township Municipal Building.

/dms