

Historic Preservation Commission

June 7, 2010 Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm.

Roll Call

Present

Barbara Shanley  
Yvonne Beatrice  
Tony Bourgholtzer  
Carol Greene (late 7:38)  
Deborah Grob  
Alex Michelini

Absent

Marthajean Drago  
John Bristow, excused  
Gus Vasiliadis, excused  
Randall Brewster

**Flag Salute**

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

**Public Session:** Mrs. Grob moved to open the Public Session and Mr. Michelini seconded the motion. All approved.

The Chair recognized Mr. George A. McLachlan from Spectra Energy, Environmental Project Manager; and from Public Archaeology Laboratory (PAL) Archaeologist, Oralee Elquist and Gregory R. Dubell, RPA Energy Projects Manager.

Mr. Dubell reported that PAL was contacted by Spectra Energy Transmission, LLC, the parent company of Texas Eastern Transmission and Algonquin Gas Transmission to do an archaeological survey of its ten acre gas pipe line meter station located on Stag Hill, Mahwah, NJ. The Mahwah meter station is part of the New York/New Jersey expansion project which is a pipe line facility from Lynden, NJ to Manhattan, NY, and a portion of this project is in Mahwah. Mr. Dubell explained that Spectra Energy plans to expand the Mahwah meter station in order to accommodate the increased demand for natural gas flow.

PAL was contracted by Spectra Energy to do an archaeological survey of the ten acre meter station. PAL contacted the New Jersey Historic Preservation office and the Ramapough Indians; who did a site walk with them. Mr. Dubell handed out detailed maps of the area to the members. PAL is a non-profit cultural resource company. PAL does archaeological and historic preservation building surveys, throughout the New England area. The crew of four did 167 test bits of the area and identified areas of prehistoric land use in the area and also identified a historic period foundation that dates to the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. This was a preliminary survey. PAL’s objective was to identify the location of archaeological sites. Mr. Dubell reported that this area had previously been surveyed. The Ramapough Indians communicated to PAL that this area was inhabited by their ancestors and believed that the historic foundation was probably inhabited by one of their residents at one time. No deed search had been done of this area.

Mr. Dubell asked the HPC if they had done any archaeological survey of this site in the past. Mrs. Shanley replied that no official survey had been performed on this site that she knows of. Mr. Dubell

reported that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission required Spectra Energy to conduct an archaeological survey of the property to determine that no archaeological sites would be disturbed before any expansion work could be done.

PAL, in speaking with New Jersey archaeologist, Mr. Edward Lenik, thought they may find evidence of rock shelters. However, none were found. PAL did find remnants of stone tools from Native American Indians, and earthenware from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Mr. McLachlan reported that the expansion work to be done will only disturb one acre of the immediate area of the meter station.

Mr. Dubell explained that if PAL did find significant archaeological sites, within the one acre expansion area, the next step would be additional testing to determine if these areas were of historic significance and if they were they would work with Spectra and the New Jersey State Historic Office to minimize the impact to those areas. It does appear that the work to be done is well within the historic areas and there will be no historic impact.

PAL will send a copy of its report to the Bureau of Archaeology and Technology in Trenton, who advised PAL that any local artifacts should go to the local Historic Preservation Commission or museum that would be able to house the artifacts. Mr. Edward Lenik contacted the Mahwah Museum and they are willing to house the artifacts. The Commission agreed.

Mr. Michelini asked if Mr. Dubell could quantify how many archaeological items were found. Mr. Dubell reported that all the items could probably fit in one shoe box.

Mr. Dubell also reported that PAL will send a copy of the report to the Mahwah Historic Preservation Commission and the Mahwah Museum, and Mr. Edward Lenik.

The report will not be completed until the end of the year.

Mr. Dubell asked if the Commission had any other information regarding the site for the report. The Chair reported that the Commission had no other information about the area, at this time.

The Chair thanked Mr. McLachlan, Mr. Dubell and Ms. Elquist for presenting such a detailed report to the HPC and the Commission looks forward to reading the final report.

No other members of the public were present.

Mrs. Greene moved to close the Public Session and Mrs. Grob seconded the motion. All approved.

*Vote: 6 yes; 0 no: Bourgholtzer, yes; Beatrice, yes; Greene, yes; Grob, yes; Michelini, yes; Shanley, yes.*

**Applications:**

Vista Bahn Estates, LLC, Docket 1306-10 Block 23; Lot 55.07, 10 Weathervane Court: The Chair reported that Mr. Michelini, Mrs. Bourgholtzer and herself did a walk-through of the property and did not find any evidence of any historic significance. Mrs. Shanley stated that Mrs. Greene is within 200 feet of the application; therefore, she must recuse herself of the discussion.

Let the minutes reflect that Mrs. Greene recused herself from the discussion.

Mrs. Shanley questioned if the HPC should comment on the historic corridor of Ramapo Valley Road and the impact of the 12 foot retaining wall would create on the historic streetscape of Ramapo Valley Road.

Let the minutes reflect that after a thorough review of Docket 1306-10 the following motion was made and approved.

Mrs. Grob moved to approve Docket 1306-10 with the recommendation that the proposed 12 foot retaining walls do not affect the historic streetscape of Ramapo Valley Road, and Mrs. Beatrice seconded the motion. All approved.

*Vote: 5 yes; 0 no: Bourgholtzer, yes; Beatrice, yes; Grob, yes; Michelini, yes; Shanley, yes.*

Let the minutes reflect that, at this time, Mrs. Greene returned to the discussion.

#### **Fardale Farms, Estates, Docket 526P, Block 154, Lot 5**

Let the minutes reflect that after a thorough review of Docket 526P Mrs. Grob moved to approve Docket 526P with no comment and Mrs. Greene seconded the motion.

*Vote: 6 yes; 0 no: Bourgholtzer, yes; Beatrice, yes; Greene, yes; Grob, yes; Michelini, yes; Shanley, yes.*

**DEP Filings:** No comments.

#### **Old Business:**

**Historic Marker:** Winter Farmhouse Historic Marker. Mrs. Greene read to the Commission the text for the Winter Farmhouse Marker and all approved.

*Vote: 6 yes; 0 no: Bourgholtzer, yes; Beatrice, yes; Greene, yes; Grob, yes; Michelini, yes; Shanley, yes.*

The secretary will forward a copy of the text to the vendor.

#### **Chairs Report:**

**Winter Farmhouse:** Mrs. Shanley reported that she will contact the manager of the Winter Farmhouse, Mr. Alverey, and inform him that repairs need to be made.

**HPC Historic Recognition Award:** Mrs. Shanley suggested that the HPC recognize the Mahwah Old Train Station and Caboose Museum as a candidate for the HPC Historic Recognition Award and asked the members to consider this nomination and decide at the July 12<sup>th</sup> HPC meeting.

**Mahwah Day:** It was decided that the HPC will have a table at this September's Mahwah Day and will sell the Ornaments and hand out brochures. Mr. Michelini volunteered to help Mrs. Shanley and Mrs. Grob and Mrs. Beatrice will also help when they are not manning the school and church tables.

**Fletcher House:** The Chair reported that the roof is off. Mrs. Shanley and Mrs. Grob will keep in touch with the contractor during the renovations. The Chair reported that she is concerned with the wood siding cedar shakes. The Easement states that the siding is to be replaced with like materials. Mrs. Handley wants the wooded siding to be a much lighter shade than the original cedar siding and in addition wants cranberry colored wood trim around the windows, which is not in the Stickley style. The Chair will request specific samples of siding and window trim for the Commission to review.

**Darlington Schoolhouse:** Mrs. Shanley reported that the Highlands' waivers have been approved, and the project to going forward.

**Knight-Goetiachuis Barn:** Mrs. Shanley reported that Mr. and Mrs. Myers will be taking the Knight-Goetiachuis Barn from the Chestnut Trees LLC property and moving it to their farm.

**Minutes:** May 3, 2010 Minutes: Mrs. Shanley made the following corrections:

page one under Minutes second sentence to change Mr. Thomas Dunn, has presents the HPC to Mr. Thomas Dunn has presented and change documents of to documents to.

Page 2; Fletcher House second sentence change to read: The builder indicated to Mrs. Shanley that replacing the original windows with thermal windows may not be necessary.

Page 2; Crocker Mansion: Change to read: The Chair reported that the restoration work is not finished yet.

Page 2: Knight Goetiachuis House and Barn: Change VillaDom to VillaDom Times, and last sentence add .....new owners of the barn to photo document move of barn.

Page 2: Mahwah Library Room change to read as follows: The Chair reported that the meeting with the HPC Steering Committee of the Local History Library Room had met on April 19, 2010, and reported that at the next Library Board of Trustees(LBOT) meeting the LBOT decided .....

Mrs. Beatrice moved to accept the May 4, 2010 as corrected and Mrs. Grob seconded the motion. All approved.

*Vote: 6 yes; 0 no: Bourgholtzer, yes; Beatrice, yes; Greene, yes; Grob, yes; Micheline, yes; Shanley, yes.*

**General Discussion:**

Mrs. Shanley and Mr. Brewster met with the Crocker Mansion builder and reported that the downstairs wood work looks great and that the builder offered to schedule with the HPC another walk through inspection of the renovations.

Mrs. Shanley reported that she had been contacted by the great-great grandson of Emerson McMillan and he told Mrs. Shanley that he had some brochures and photos of the Crocker Mansion that he offered to give the HPC. Mrs. Shanley accepted his donation and after the HPC reviews and documents the collection the HPC will forward the collection to the Mahwah Museum for the museum's collection.

Mrs. Greene reported that she attended a County of Bergen meeting and the County approved to hire a planner to manage the County Parks. Mrs. Greene suggested to the County that the ruins be maintained and that the historic sites locations not be made known in order to protect them from vandals.

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

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

/dms