

Holland Township Historic Preservation Commission Meeting

Monday, March 7, 2016
Holland Twp. Municipal Building, 7 PM

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

Present: Joseph Becker, Peter Craig, Larry LaFevre, Beverly Kirby-McDonough, Carl Molter, Kathy Sciarrello, S. Wydner

Excused: Dan Bush

Adequate notice of this meeting was given pursuant to the Open Public Meeting Act Law by the Township Clerk on November 12, 2015.

Minutes of the January 2016 meeting were approved.

Holland Rural Agricultural Historic District and Pipeline

Larry LaFevre distributed a map of the agricultural historic district and described the boundaries. The map included contributing, preserved (C/P) farmland. Larry stated that a map was received from the State and requires an update. He plans to update the map with Carla Cielo, as a requirement for a certificate of eligibility (COE). A COE may require PennEast to perform a Section 106 review of historic resources within the district that are impacted by the pipeline. Larry referred to a letter from Gebhardt & Kiefer Law Offices to the URS Corporation dated January 29, 2016.

Larry discussed the proposed pipeline and the revised FERC map which was posted online as of February 22nd. The latest route bypasses farmland, but travels along local roadways.

Historic e-Maps / 18th Century Taverns

Larry mentioned that Marilyn Cummings asked for identification of local 18th century taverns on the e-Map. He said that by looking at nominations there was one located at Mount Pleasant, and another at Pursley's Ferry. Kathy Sciarrello stated that, according to old newspapers, there was a tavern in Spring Mill's – known as "Hell Town". This tavern could be confirmed by searching for old tavern licenses. Larry said that he could ask Dennis Bertland to research the Spring Mills tavern as he works on the Bunn Valley Historic District.

Larry said that Carl Molter expressed interest in turning over the Historic e-Maps project to another volunteer.

Larry and Kathy suggested scheduling an interview with Mr. Richard Miller to ask about old local roads.

The Next Holland Township Book

Kathy showed the first proof of her new book, "Life and Traditions of Holland, New Jersey; 1891 – 1895". Kathy said she corrected the proof and sent it out for another printing. She agreed to bring the updated copy to the next meeting. Kathy suggested ordering 60 copies at a

10% discount. The books would cost less than \$10.00 each, and could be delivered in one week from Lulu.com. The decision to order will be made at the next meeting.

Britton Family Research and Jean Giaimis Request

Larry mentioned that Brian French requested information on the Britton family, the same family that owned the local sawmill. Larry responded by providing some information from Carla's research. Beverly Kirby-McDonough sent genealogical data. Larry said he received a request from Jean Giaimis, a historian, who is working on a curriculum for high school students. Ms. Giaimis asked for geological, environmental and biological sites by community. Janice Armstrong of the Milford Borough Historical Society replied with a list. Larry suggested that we could add pebble rock being studied by Lehigh University, and documentation of the Pursley's Ferry District. Carl suggested including information about Gravel Hill. Joe Becker recommended sharing a citation of a 20-page geological study by New York University.

Larry mentioned that he received a request to interview Ray "Skinny" Harrison. Mr. Harrison was an employee of the Riegel paper mill, as well as a World War II veteran.

John Fine / Cyphers Farmstead

Carl spoke about an agenda item that was covered at the last Planning Board meeting. It was related to a proposed solar farm at the John Fine/Cyphers Farmstead on Cyphers Road. Carl talked about "checklist for application completeness". He said he reviewed the maps that were submitted that excluded outbuildings (barn, silo, etc.). The plan is to remove all structures on the site.

Larry said he is preparing a letter to the Planning Board to recommend subdividing the old stone house and barn. Other alternatives may include architectural salvage or to advertise availability for relocation.

Other Business

- Bunn Valley District – Larry stated that Dennis Bertland is working on this.
- Mr. Frank Stull – Kathy said that the Township received a letter from Ron Stull (Frank's son) asking that a room at Riegel Ridge be named in memory of his father. Kathy mentioned that she planned to dedicate her new book to Frank Stull. This item will be discussed in more detail at the next Historic Preservation meeting.
- Tour of Bethany Ridge – Tentatively rescheduled for 10:00AM, Saturday, April 16th.
- Hunterdon County Community Day, Saturday, June 4th – Participation undecided.
- Hunterdon Heritage Days (Museums), Sunday, September 18th & 25th – Participation undecided.

Show & Tell

- Larry shared a printout of "*Settlement and River Trade Along The Delaware River In The Pre-Canal Era*" by D. Bertland Associates – January 2015. Prepared for Knowlton Township Historic Preservation Commission, Columbia, NJ.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 4th, at 7:00PM

Meeting Adjourned: 8:40PM