

Holland Township Historic Preservation Commission Meeting

Monday, March 2, 2020
Holland Twp. Municipal Building, 7 PM

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

Present: Joseph Becker, Lori Bonham, Larry LaFevre, Beverly Kirby-McDonough, Carl Molter, Kathy Sciarello, Shirley Wydner

Excused: Dan Bush

Adequate notice of this meeting was given pursuant to the open public meeting act, by the Twp. Clerk on December 12, 2019.

Minutes of the January 2020 meeting were approved.

Joe Becker led the Pledge of Allegiance to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II.

Holland Township Spring Newsletter

Larry LaFevre will submit an article for inclusion; “*Old Spring Mills, Long a Busy Place No Longer Active*”, by Egbert T. Bush (1932). Due to the length of the article, it may be divided into two separate parts for publication. Two photographs of the Brush farm (formerly the Henry Cole farm) will also be submitted.

Oral Histories

Larry reported that the latest oral history interview was with Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Wydner on February 12th. Larry showed a list of all oral history interviews completed to-date. Beverly Kirby-McDonough agreed to review the list and to provide Larry with copies of donor forms and digital sound files. The sound files will be stored on an external hard drive by Larry. Also, Larry mentioned that he found two tapes recorded by his grandmother, Lydia Stem. The tapes can be played and re-recorded into a digital format. Larry shared an old photograph of students at Frenchtown High School.

Bunn Valley Historic District Issues

Larry stated that Dennis Bertland received a review of the draft nomination for the Bunn Valley Historic District from Bob Craig – Registration Program Supervisor of the NJ Historic Preservation Office. The review includes additional criterion and significant changes to the submitted documentation. These updates are necessary even after a public review was held. Carl Molter suggested an on-site meeting with Bob Craig to address these issues. Larry plans to follow up with Dan Bush.

Cummins House Tour and Tenant House

Larry spoke about the recent Cummins house tour. This house dates back to about 1850. The owner of the house is planning on repairs to the tenant house and barns. Larry plans to visit again at a later date to provide the owner with drawings of the house and a report on the tenant house.

Frank Stull’s History of Riegel Ridge

Larry mentioned that he and Joe took the Frank Stull slide show to Black Lab Imaging in Flemington. The vendor will complete the entire job; digitize the slides, convert them to PowerPoint and insert narratives. The total estimate of \$200 was very reasonable.

HPC Website Updates

Larry said that he and Kathy Sciarrello made changes to the web page on the Holland Township website; corrected typos, fixed broken links and reorganized. Larry asked for suggestions for further reorganization. He mentioned that dendrochronology sites and barn surveys can be identified by block/lot number, historic name, current name and address. This information can be cross-referenced to the tax map on the tax assessor's page on the township website.

Other Business

Tour of Township – Larry said he provided Jim Scott with a tour of the township including Spring Mills and the Henry Cole Farm. Larry and others members of this commission expressed an interest in visiting the small graveyard at the Oak Hill Golf Course.

Deed Search – Larry and Kathy discussed a deed of the barn on Adamic Hill. This barn was converted into a house. A question regarding Lot 18 is still being researched.

Tory Den Field Trip – Larry proposed a field trip to see Tory Den, a cavern that was used for shelter during the Revolution. It is believed to be located on a farm off Bellis Road. Owners gave permission to search. Larry said the field trip should be scheduled within the next few weeks while vegetation is still low.

History of Paper Mills and Riegel Ridge – Joe said he received a call from Jan Rower on behalf of Holland Seniors. She is seeking a lecturer for a presentation of the history of paper mills and Riegel Ridge. No date has been set. Joe expects to receive a follow-up call.

Show and Tell

- Framed Photograph - Silva house, taken shortly after 1946 – Larry
- Announcement – Preservation New Jersey; Celebration Gala, 25th Anniversary, 10 Most Endangered Historic Places, March 4th, 2020. – Larry
- Original Flyer – Fox Hill at Holland Township – Larry
- Photographs/Articles – Holland and Riegelsville Stations published in Old & New Bel Del (Facebook Page) by Shane Blische - Larry

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

Meeting Adjourned: 8:04PM