

Holland Township Historic Preservation Commission Meeting

Monday, May 3, 2021
Holland Twp. Municipal Building, 7 PM

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

Present: Dan Bush, Larry LaFevre, Beverly Kirby-McDonough, Kathy Sciarello
Excused: Joseph Becker, Lori Bonham, Carl Molter, JoAnn Bonham Schaible

Adequate notice of this meeting was given pursuant to the open public meeting act by the Twp. Clerk on December 10, 2020.

NOTE: THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE.

Minutes of the March 2021 meeting were approved as submitted.

Bunn Valley Historic District

Larry LaFevre said he received an email message on April 1st from Andrea Tingey of the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office. The historic designation is in progress, and the Commission should hear back soon. Dan Bush asked Larry to provide a brief written status of the project to be shared with the Township Committee.

Holland Happenings

Larry stated that the upcoming issue of “*Holland Happenings*” will include an article about the Annual NJ Historic Preservation Award for the Riegel Ridge Community Center. The article was written by Michael Keady and edited by Larry. According to Kathy Sciarello, the story appeared in the Hunterdon Democrat Newspaper on April 22, 2021. It also appeared online.

Annual NJ Historic Preservation Award for RRC

Larry announced that the Township received a commemorative plaque from the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office. Dan suggested that the plaque should be displayed in the lobby at Riegel Ridge, encased with other Riegel artifacts. Eventually, it can be hung on the wall in the lobby.

Cummins Farm

Larry reported that he gave a second tour of the Cummins farm on April 25th. He mentioned that Carl Molter took some wonderful pictures and posted them to social media. Carl also shared a story about the old tenant house, coined the “devil house” by children who traversed the farm on their way home from school. Larry is exploring the feasibility of farmland preservation for the 21-acre site. The owner of the Cummins farm, John Schafer, plans to restore all the structures on his property. He is open to the possibility of donating the farm to the Township or a non-profit which could operate it as a museum. Much discussion with the Township would be needed in order to move forward.

Harder House

Larry reported that the Harder farm is currently on the real estate market for \$1.85M. The property, consisting of 116 acres, is located between Route 614 and Rummel Road. The existing owner is in favor of preserving the farm. New owners will be asked to consider farmland preservation.

Virtual Presentations

Larry asked if anyone had ideas for virtual presentations. This Commission has a lot of information to share in addition to the “*Frank Stull’s History of Riegel Ridge*” slideshow. The slideshow was converted to PowerPoint. The Holland Free Public Library hosted the presentation on Zoom. It is now available for viewing on YouTube. Kathy suggested a virtual tour of Amsterdam. Larry mentioned that he started to develop a self-drive barn tour. He asked about the best software to use and whether to create a handout. Dan suggested creating a brief slideshow of Holland Township veterans for display on the movie screen at Riegel Ridge. There is concern about the source and completeness of a list of veterans.

Other Business

The Lodge – Dan provided an update. He stated that Hunterdon County is expressing a great deal of interest in purchasing the property. If no decision is made by July 1st, the lodge will be offered for sale on the open market. Larry said he plans to schedule a tour of the lodge before July 1st.

Volendam Windmill Project – No updates. Larry stated that Barbara Volkov is working on the story. Denise Egielski is creating original artwork and Larry Kusar, conductor of the Hunterdon Symphony, will compose music.

Riegel Ridge Photographs – Larry mentioned he recently received a message from Jack Weiss. Mr. Weiss may visit Holland Township before July 4th, and plans to bring historic photographs for review.

Historic Preservation Commission Files – Larry said that JoAnn Bonham Schaible is digitizing a table of contents of files. However, there are at least four or five folders of material that cannot be identified. Larry will bring them to *Show and Tell* at a future meeting.

Other Updates – Dan provided updates on the following topics; 1) the 2021 Township Budget is approved. This Commission’s amount is the same as last year, 2) the Township is in the process of purchasing a GenOn property on River Road, Block 26 - Lot 10, 68 acres and will close soon. 3) Georgia-Pacific plans to donate trees to the Township for Arbor Day and 4) the Township will be awarded \$500K (payable in two installments) under the Federal Care Act. Township expects to receive guidelines about how the funding can be used.

X Show and Tell

No items to show.

Next Meeting: Monday, June 7th, 7:00PM

Meeting Adjourned: 7:36 PM