

Holland Township Historic Preservation Commission Meeting

Monday, June 7, 2021
Holland Twp. Municipal Building, 7 PM

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

Present: Joseph Becker, Larry LaFevre, Beverly Kirby-McDonough, JoAnn Bonham Schaible, Kathy Sciarello

Excused: Dan Bush, Lori Bonham, Carl Molter

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

Minutes of the May 2021 meeting were approved as submitted.

Old Business

Larry LaFevre provided additional detail on old business items including the Cummins Farm, the GenOn property and the Harder Farm. He also shared maps of these sites. Larry stated that the documentation of the Harder house is complete. The spring house will be documented in the future, and the barn survey will be updated.

Kathy Sciarello said that she learned from the recent Township Committee Meeting that the Lodge at Riegel Ridge will be placed on the real estate market. Hunterdon County is not interested in acquiring the property. Larry said a tour of the Lodge will be scheduled soon.

Larry reported that there is no update on the Bunn Valley Historic District.

Larry mentioned that the latest edition of “*Holland Happenings*” (Spring 2021) included an article about the Annual NJ Historic Preservation Award for the Riegel Ridge Community Center.

Larry said that Mr. Jack Weiss plans to visit the local area on June 12th. Mr. Weiss will bring historical photographs for this Commission to review. A tentative meeting with Larry and Kathy is planned for Friday, June 18th.

Visual Presentations

Larry spoke of the possibility of developing a virtual tour of Amsterdam. A slide show could be created with photographs and narratives similar to the Frank Stull presentation. A lot of material is available that could be included. Larry also mentioned that he received a forwarded message from Ms. Deb Croasdale, a teacher at the Holland School. Ms. Croasdale is willing to assist with future presentations. Kathy suggested a developing a presentation about old Holland schools or Bunn Valley.

Books

Kathy reported that she replenished the supply of Holland Township books. She placed an order for 51 books (various editions) at a total cost of \$429.60. The Municipal Building has 10 copies of each volume available for sale, and an additional 15 copies of each are stored at Riegel Ridge. Books are still selling. Some people buy the entire set.

Helen Hager Behme Estate Documents

Kathy spoke about a donation of family and land ownership records received from the estate of Helen Hager Behme. The information was donated to the Commission by Mr. Steve Mason, who was in charge of her estate. Genealogical notes include the families of Bloom, Brinks, Rapp and Sinclair. Of particular interest is an actual contract, dated 1852, to hire a teacher, Jonas Rapp, for the lower Holland school for one year. The contract is signed by the superintendent and some trustees, including Jesse Sinclair. Kathy did a fine job organizing all the notes and papers from a metal tin into a presentable binder. Kathy agreed to send a personalized “thank you” note to the donor.

Other Business

Storage Room at Riegel Ridge – Joe Becker did a good job organizing all the books. Electrical power and lighting are needed in the storage room. The work was started, but not completed. This requires follow-up.

Unidentified Files – Larry showed some old files that need to be identified and inventoried. He said he looked through some of these with Joe. The collection included local pictures and negatives, only some of which were labeled. Another item was a program, dated March 1968, entitled “*Oak Ridge Theatre Presents The Sound of Music*”. Riegel family genealogy was also included in the collection.

Show and Tell

Helen Hager Behme estate binder – Kathy

Unidentified files – Larry

Riegel Ridge new employee brochure, 1955 President Walker Hamilton retirement– Beverly

Old photograph of Arthur Schaible - JoAnn

Next Meeting: Monday, August 2nd, 7:00PM

Meeting Adjourned: 8:10 PM