

Holland Township Historic Preservation Commission Meeting

Friday, January 7, 2022
Holland Twp. Municipal Building, 7 PM

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

Present: Joseph Becker, Lori Bonham, Dan Bush, Larry LaFevre, Beverly Kirby-McDonough, JoAnn Bonham Schaible, Kathy Sciarrello

Excused: Carl Molter

Guest: Tim Fazekas

Adequate notice of this meeting was given pursuant to the open public meeting act by the Twp. Clerk on December 9, 2021.

2022 Reorganization

There is no reorganization, as no terms expired this year. Cathy Miller will revise the member list to reflect new expiration dates.

Minutes of the November 2021 meeting were approved, with corrections.

The Unveiling

Mr. Tim Fazekas, a former resident of Holland Township for 25 years, was in attendance. Mr. Fazekas acquired a large, black and white image of the Warren Glen Mill (dated about 1940) from an online auction. He donated the image to Holland Township. Larry LaFevre had it scanned and reframed, including digital prints. The photograph will initially be displayed at the municipal building, and most likely be moved to Riegel Ridge in the future. This Commission is very grateful for the donation, and thanked Mr. Fazekas.

Inventory at Riegel Ridge, New Storage Racks and More

Larry announced that there is finally power and light at the Riegel Ridge storeroom. Also, there is room for two more storage racks to be purchased with residual funding from last year's budget. The Hammond maps are in the storeroom. Joe Becker mentioned that he has local artifacts, including Riegel Spot-Lite newsletters, to be filed there.

Ellis Road Farm and Development

Larry received a repeat request for information on two farms on Ellis Road. That is; one farm formerly owned by Herbert Stangle that included a horse track, and another that was once owned by the Pocza's and the Grefe's. Last year, Larry and Carla Cielo provided documentation including a section of the 1860 Farm Map with aerial photographs. Carla offered additional research such as genealogy and deed searches. Larry responded to this second request by sending out the documentation again, including a barn survey.

Mr. Chad Ege / Samuel Wilson Farm – 630 Milford-Mt. Pleasant Road [B25 – L29]

Larry received a call from Chad Ege who wants to learn more about his historic home on 10 acres. The house appears on the 1860 Farm within the Samuel Wilson Farm (originally 61 acres). Larry and Beverly Kirby-McDonough visited the property. Subsequently, Larry returned with Carla. The house has rare hand-hewn rafters, and possibly could be the oldest in the Township. The owner found an old military roster from the Spanish-American War left in the attic. Larry took digital photographs of the roster, and Beverly is researching it. She is also doing deed searches at the Hall of Records in Flemington.

Other Business

Girl Scouts / O'sakame Preserve – Larry mentioned that the Girl Scouts had a planting event at O'sakame Preserve on November 21st. A news article of the event was published in local newspapers. Larry asked Dan Bush if hunting was allowed at the preserve on Sundays. Dan responded that it is not allowed. Larry expressed that he would like to provide tours on Sundays. Dan asked Larry to reach out to Curt Krazer, President of the Farmer's Sportsman's Club, for safety reasons. Larry and Dan spoke about installing a historic sign on the Robbins property in recognition of the original purchaser who was a Revolutionary War soldier.

Bunn Valley – Larry said he reached out to Andrea Tingey of the NJ State Historic Preservation Office in November. He was unable to make contact with her, but plans to reach out again.

Alexandria Farm / Vanderbilt Cemetery – Larry mentioned that a social media post on the Holland Township History–NJ page was shared/reposted. This led to online comments regarding the Vanderbilt Cemetery. Kevin Stout, a photographer, is interested in seeing the cemetery and reached out to Larry.

Tory Den – Larry spoke about scheduling another tour of Tory Den, conditions permitting.

Show and Tell

Review of Folder – Kathy Sciarello reviewed the contents of a folder, received from Larry, with material to be filed. Items included notes on Barker Tract, Lot 1 & 2, by Bob Peabody, and a map of the Hamilton Tract. Also included was information on Rev. John Hanna, whose family arrived in the 1700's and settled in Philadelphia. Rev. John Hanna's son was a former pastor of both the Bethlehem Church and the Kingwood Presbyterian Church. This material will be filed.

Postcard from Ebay – Larry showed a paper copy of a postcard showing barns on the old William Bunn farm in Mount Pleasant. The Wean's and the Parker's formerly lived at the farm. The property is now owned by Mr. Bruce Hooper.

A Preservation New Jersey (PNJ) - A letter of thanks, dated January 3rd, was received for renewal of annual membership.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00PM