

Holland Township Historic Preservation Commission Meeting

Monday, March 7, 2022
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, JoAnn Bonham Schaible, Kathy Sciarello

Excused: Dan Bush, Carl Molter

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

Minutes of the January 2022 meeting were approved.

History of Surveys / Files

Larry LaFevre sent a copy of the Holland Township Historic Properties Index to all Commission members via email. He explained how the historic property files were developed. The files were based on a publication, *'Sites of Historic Interest – Hunterdon County Master Plan'*, dated November 1979. Subsequently, the Holland Township Historical Society drove by the sites and took photographs, mostly of historic houses. They created a binder for each section of the Township. These binders are stored at Riegel Ridge. The Holland Township Historic Preservation Commission (HTHPC) made copies of the County surveys, including photographs, and filed them by site.

Larry showed an example of the Tinsman property file. It included a copy of survey #H-111 by the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office. The file also included a Historic Sites Survey Form, deed search, drawings, photographs and write-ups of the root cellar, smokehouse and barn.

Because files were incomplete, and some sites were missed by the County, Mr. Dennis Bertland was hired to finish the surveys. He completed the Historic Sites Survey Forms, and established files in survey-number order (consistent with the Hunterdon County Master Plan book). Larry discussed the survey numbering protocol. He explained that if a site is located in a historic district as a contributing resource, then it will have a prefix reflecting that district. Thus, "HC" is Holland Church District, "LY" is Little York, "MP" is Mount Pleasant, "MJ" is Mount Joy and "PF" is Pursley's Ferry.

Larry spoke about the Holland Township Historic Properties Index compiled by JoAnn Bonham Schaible. It summarizes everything in the files by block and lot numbers, with descriptions. Each column in the index can be sorted and counted. For example; endangered barns (6), barns gone (13), houses documented (28) out-buildings documented (44) and dendro-dated (15). However, the number of barn surveys completed (94) is one too many. (The former Chris Hager barn (survey # 30) is counted twice, because it is divided in half and situated on two separate block and lot numbers.)

Inventory at Riegel Ridge

No status. Larry said that Ms. Margaret Wilson is seeking information on one of the two Little York mills. There may be some information stored at Riegel Ridge.

Other Business

The Lodge at Riegel Ridge – Larry mentioned that today was the last day to bid on the Lodge. The starting price was \$375K with bidding in \$3K increments. At the last Township Committee Meeting, it was shared that 3 parties were signed up to bid.

Deed Search - T. Fazekas – Beverly Kirby-McDonough said she is performing a deed search of the former Fazekas property (Block 1, Lot 32) at the County Hall of Records. She showed a deed, dated August 28, 1957, when the property was acquired by the Fazekas family. The deed described a total parcel of 59 acres, of which 22 individual lots were excluded. The actual conveyance was only 17 acres. At one time, the property was in the possession of the Henry Huff. Beverly plans to gather more deeds and prepare a summary for T. Fazekas.

Holland Happenings – Larry mentioned that articles for the next edition of Holland Happenings are due on March 29th. He is planning to write an article about the Clark / Robbins Farm.

Marian Huff Cummins Scrapbooks – Kathy Sciarello said she received a social media request from the spouse of Marian Cummins' grand-daughter to view the scrapbooks. The scrapbooks were donated to the Commission by Mr. Art Van Doren. They include clippings of local interest as well as some family items. The scrapbooks are contained in three boxes in the possession of Kathy. A decision will be made in the near future about where to store the books. Arrangements can be made for a viewing. However, the books should not be left unattended. Copies may not be made, but digital photographs are acceptable. Kathy plans to find out where the grand-daughter is located.

Saw Mill Ledgers – Larry said he received a message from the current owner of the Tinsman saw mill property who has possession of the old saw mill log books. The owner graciously lent the books to Larry. In total, there are five books dating back to the 1830's. Kathy analyzed and reviewed each book. One is a small book (the earliest) that is labeled 'Account Monies Expended on Account of Riegelsville Bridge Company'. Two other log books specifically state 'Carpenter' and 'Tinsman' on them and indicate the Greenwich and Riegelsville mills. (Kathy printed the covers and one page out of each.) The last two log books show 'Alexandria' at the top of each page. It is unclear which of these ledgers relate to the Henry Quinn mill that burned down and preceded the Tinsman mill on the same site. Larry showed historic photographs of Quinn Falls at Riegelsville and the residence and saw mill of Thomas P. Tinsman from the 1860 farm map.

Old & New Bel-Del – Larry said he printed some items from social media related to the railroad for inclusion in our files. They include; 1) Pennsylvania Railroad Belvidere Division – Time Table of Passengers (1904) and 2) List of Stations, Distances, etc.

Holland Windmill Article – An article about the building of the Holland Windmill was donated to the Commission by Mr. Krananski. The article was part of the Jersey Free Press - September 15, 1971. It will be added to the files.

Show and Tell

- Aerial photograph of Riegel Ridge.
- Framed photograph of 1940 Riegel Day Camp.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20PM