

Holland Township Historic Preservation Commission Meeting

Monday, May 2, 2022
Holland Twp. Municipal Building, 7 PM

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM

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

Excused: Joseph Becker, 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 March 2022 meeting were approved.

T. Fazekas Deed Search

Beverly Kirby-McDonough described how she researched deeds at the Hall of Records at Flemington. The local address of the former Fazekas property is 1010 Milford-Warren Glen Road located within an area known as “Millersville” (between Hawks Schoolhouse and Bellis Roads). Originally, there were 66 acres of land, consisting of eleven lots, all owned by Solomon W. Hoff/Huff in 1910. The Fazekas property was deeded in 1952, consisting of 17.1 acres. However, the specific lot numbers included cannot be identified.

Beverly showed a NJ-GeoWeb map and a timeline of ownership dating back to 1817. Actual dimensions of the Fazekas property were drawn on a free computer software program called “Metes and Bounds” (by Sandy Knoll Software, LLC). She also had a collection of old deeds. Beverly will reach out to Tim Fazekas to provide him with this information.

Inventory at Riegel Ridge

Kathy Sciarello completed a 27-page inventory of artifacts in the Riegel Ridge storage room. She said that help is needed to sort through and categorize them by combining similar items. Larry LaFevre asked what categories the team should start working on first. Kathy indicated that annual reports and the renovation should be addressed. Also, there is an issue with a notebook containing magnetic-backed photographs that should be corrected. Kathy said she left a stack of various publications, such as “Spot-Lite” newsletters, that should be separated and put in chronological order. JoAnn Bonham Schaible volunteered for this task. Also, some Commission members agreed to convene this Friday, May 6th, at Riegel Ridge to help remove and inventory artifacts in the three display cases. There are concerns about the security of the display cases and the storage room.

Larry mentioned that he plans to return the Tinsman saw mill ledgers to Jose Ferreira this coming weekend. Kathy said she photographed the old ledgers.

Filing

Larry brought a box and two large manila envelopes of material to be filed. Some of the material already exists and can be filed by block and lot number, if available. Items also included black and white proof sheets and other photographs and negatives. There is not much information written on them to help identify. Larry suggested that the proof sheets could match binders created by the Holland Township Historical Society. Larry showed a map that described each of these seven binders, one for each section of the Township. Larry also spoke about reports by Frank Stull documenting the history of the Riegel family.

Riegel Ridge Grand Stand Grant

Larry said he spoke with Mr. Michael Margulies. The March 31st application deadline for the grand stand grant was missed. However, it should be easy to apply again, as the first grant was turned down. Mr. Margulies said it may be advantageous to apply for a second grant, such as the 1792 Foundation, to match funding.

Other Business

Cummins House – Larry said that some individuals expressed interest in touring the Cummins house.

Farmland Preservation – Larry reported that Dr. Suzanne Smith and Mr. Avram Schmied, new owner of the Harder farm, applied for farmland preservation.

The Lodge at Riegel Ridge – Dan Bush stated that the Lodge sold for \$540K. The new owner plans to restore the building. Proceeds from the sale will be directed to the Open Space fund.

Riegel Ridge Plaque – Dan recommended development of a plaque to memorialize the restoration of the stage, floor and windows at Riegel Ridge. He suggested one plaque to include dates and a small write-up of each. Larry mentioned that he wrote a short article about the history of O'sakame Park for the Holland Happenings newsletter. An excerpt from that article should serve as a write-up on the historic plaque.

Riegel Ridge Annual Report – Dan said that the Riegel Ridge Annual Report needs to be restarted. He asked if we could engage Mr. Michael Margulies to complete it. The report may help with grant applications. Larry agreed to reach out to Mr. Margulies and ask about the charge. Cathy Miller has copies of the old annual reports.

Fine Farm – Larry said that the Fine farm is sold. The new owners plan to restore the house for residential use. Mr. Michael Margulies is under contract to complete the restoration.

Show and Tell

- Photograph of children in front of school including a note from Lydia Stem, Larry's grandmother. Need to scan the picture and identify the school. – Larry.
- 1947 Federal Tax Return for farm of Emanuel Tomson – Larry.

Next Meeting: Monday, June 6th, 7:00PM

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15PM