

Holland Township Historic Preservation Commission Meeting

Monday, December 4, 2023
Holland Twp. Municipal Building, 7 PM

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:04 PM

Present: Joseph Becker, Dan Bush, Tim Fazekas, Larry LaFevre, Beverly Kirby-McDonough, Stacey Rister, JoAnn Bonham Schaible, Kathy Sciarello

Adequate notice of this meeting was given pursuant to the open public meeting act by the Twp. Clerk on December 8, 2022.

Minutes of the November 2023 meeting were approved.

Historic Sign for O'sakame Park

Larry LaFevre displayed the current proof of the two-third scale O'sakame Park sign. The proof was approved on November 15th. Larry suggested a site visit to determine where the sign should be placed. Dan Bush proposed adding a sign to be funded by the Cultural & Heritage Commission to commemorate the Robbins homestead. He also reported that two additional benches were purchased for the park.

Riegel Ridge Community Center

Kathy Sciarello stated that the Louis XIV glass tabletop was installed today, December 4th.

Regarding the "Early Life and Traditions..." series, Kathy is authorized by Dan to spend about \$1,100 to replenish the current inventory of books. Kathy will provide Kristi Gano - CFO with this estimate, and Kristi will prepare a purchase order. As soon as municipal credit cards are in place, the books can be ordered. Kathy described an issue with printing discounts that diminish over time.

Larry asked how the purchasing process works in general. Dan responded that purchase orders are preferred whenever possible. Kristi Gano or Melissa Tigar can issue orders. Items can be bought with municipal credit cards.

Larry discussed an email received from the New Jersey Conservation Foundation that warned of the upcoming expiration of the Corporate Business Tax (CBT) surcharge of 2.5% at the end of this year. He provided a sample resolution to restore the surcharge. Dan agreed to take the resolution to the Township Committee for consideration. This surcharge funds farmland open space and historic preservation. It is expected to help fund the restoration of the grandstand at Riegel Ridge.

Dan announced that the Board of County Commissioners recently approved a Historic Preservation Grant in the amount of \$50K for the grandstand. This is in addition to the first grant of \$35K.

Holland Township 150th Anniversary

Dan handed out copies of the final flier with Schedule of Events that will be mailed out with tax and sewer bills in December. He gave a description of all planned events. Dan mentioned that Jessica Neglia is working on the T-shirts. The new Township logo, events and dates will be on the front. Sponsors will be listed on the back. An initial quantity of 500 T-shirts will be ordered.

The "Video Tour of Holland Township" will be renamed "Historic Perspective Videos of Holland Township". Dan stated that three new video monitors have been delivered. He proposed that the monitors should be placed in the lobby on top of the display cases at Riegel Ridge. There is a power source for each

unit. Kathy suggested using the table donated by the Milo family. Tim Fazekas offered to help set up the monitors. Dan plans to ask Committeeman Bob Thurgarland to reach out to Tim.

During upcoming reorganization meetings, a group photograph will be taken for each Commission / Committee for inclusion in the planned Holland Township 150th Anniversary Booklet.

2024 Members and Budget

Larry circulated the 2024 Member List among the Commission to verify accuracy. Three members are due for reappointment: Larry, Joe and JoAnn. Tim needs to be added. Larry will submit the final list to Melissa Tigar. Also, Larry provided copies of the 2024 Proposed Budget of \$7,000. The budget will remain the same as 2023. However, Item #6 - Bunn Valley Historic District was replaced with Support Holland Township 150th and US 250th Anniversaries.

Other Business

- **Warren Glen Mill** – The plant is now in the process of demolition. Salvageable items will be sold.
- **External Hard Drive** - Larry said he purchased an external hard drive. He is storing files from his computer, the 1860 Farm Map and oral histories. Members are invited to share their files. The hard drive will be stored in the Historic Preservation file cabinet at the Municipal Building.
- **Grant – Carla Cielo** – Larry announced that Carla received a grant from an organization in England. The conversion rate amounted to \$3,200 USD. The grant has specific conditions. That is; it is limited to a property having one house with two doors and two smokehouses.

Show and Tell

- Theodore Wahl Prints – Tim showed two, and Kathy showed two.
- 1780 British Map – Illustrating “Helltown”, now known as Spring Mills, in Holland Township. (Ringo Papers 0059 – Folder # 427-5; Hunterdon County Historical Society) - Larry
- “Colonial Homes” Magazines – Three issues featuring Riegel Ridge Lodge (Nov/Dec 1982), Pursley’s Ferry House (Nov/Dec 1983) and Headquarters Farm, Delaware Township (Aug 1987) – Larry
- “Let’s Talk Turkey” – Riegel Corporation advertisement for jute paper - Kathy

Public Comment - N/A

Next Meeting: Friday, January 5th, 2024 at 7:00PM (Reorganization)

Please be reminded that a group photo will be taken at this meeting

Meeting Adjourned at 7:57 PM