

Holland Township Historic Preservation Commission Meeting

Friday, February 5, 2024
Holland Twp. Municipal Building, 7 PM

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

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

Excused: Dan Bush

Guest: Michael Margulies - Eclectic Architecture, LLC

Adequate notice of this meeting was given pursuant to the open public meeting act by the Twp. Clerk on December 21, 2023.

January 2024 Minutes Were Approved.

Grandstand Renovation

Larry LaFevre and Michael Margulies discussed two grants available to support the grandstand renovation at Riegel Ridge. That is; a \$30K municipal grant and a \$50K historic preservation grant from the County. (A funding deficit may exist.) Michael described steps in the process: 1) craft the project based on available funding, 2) develop construction documents and bid set, 3) forward construction documents to the State for project authorization and 4) State authorization will start the reimbursement process for both grants. Larry asked about applying for a New Jersey Historic Trust Grant. Michael stated that the NJ Historic Trust Grant will cover any project deficits and soft costs / design costs. He strongly recommended applying in parallel, within the current 2024 NJ application round. Michael agreed to provide Larry with an outline of next steps, project deficits and recommendations for moving forward.

Holland Township 150th Anniversary

Kathy Sciarrello spoke of a discrepancy in the founding date of Holland Township. An old sign at the Finesville Bridge reflected 1874. However, an 85th anniversary booklet, published by the Holland Township Committee in 1964, showed a founding date of 1879.

Dan Bush participated briefly on speakerphone. He stated that he spoke with Holland Township School, and the school agreed to host a postcard competition. The municipality will provide the necessary supplies. Dan recommended that the contest be open to include students in grades 3 through 5. He needs additional information to share with the school. Kathy reminded Dan that she needs the 150th logo to add to the 150th Anniversary Booklet.

Kathy spoke about asking the Women's Club to organize the contest, work directly with the school to manage it and possibly judge or evaluate the submissions. Dan supported this suggestion. Beverly Kirby-McDonough agreed to make initial contact with the Women's Club and provide them with information about the project. The Women's Club will also be asked to promote the competition on social media for the inclusion of homeschoolers who may want to participate.

Kathy emphasized the need to establish rules and parameters. A specific theme needs to be identified. Also, Dan suggested that the artwork should be created by students within their classrooms. He suggested prizes, such as a free 150th T-shirt and a certificate.

The Commission discussed some further details, as follows:

Theme: Image of what best represents Holland Township? Submission must reflect 150th or 1874.

Due Date: To be determined by Holland School based on their academic schedule.

Submission Size: Tentatively, 8 ½ X 11 inches. Scalable to a standard postcard size of 4 X 6 inches.

Medium: Any, such as markers, crayons, etc.

Winners: One winner per grades 3 through 5 will be selected. To be judged by Women's Club, if they agree.

Larry phoned Carla Cielo, who answered questions related to the Raritan Township 185th Anniversary postcard contest. Open questions include 1) What was the original size of the artwork before scaling? 2) Where were the postcard printed? and 3) How much did the printing cost? Once we receive a response from Carla, Beverly will contact Joan Stachnik, Present of the Women's Club. Kathy agreed to send an email to Stephanie Snyder, Superintendent of Holland School, to let her know who will be in charge of the contest. Larry offered to reach out to local graphic artist, Laura Wilson.

Riegel Ridge Community Center

Kathy announced that three televisions are now in place at Riegel Ridge to support the 150th slideshow and video presentation. Larry mentioned that Dan would like this project to be completed soon. Tim Fazekas, who is developing the slideshow and videos, gave a preview on his personal computer. He received content from Kathy, Larry and Joe Becker. JoAnn Bonham Schaible offered to share a local family photo album of her great-grandparents and two framed photographs from the archives at Riegel Ridge.

Larry showed a VHS/VCR cassette of activities of Riegel Ridge. Included was a voucher showing a date of May 31, 1995. The voucher read, "This tape will be presented to Jack Fisher and Helen Fisher for giving our commission four reels of motion pictures which they have had in their possession". Two copies were made, so the receipt shows a total of \$20.00. Larry LaFevre had one made for his personal use and enjoyment." (This notation was written by Frank Stull.)

Historic Sign for O'sakame Park

Larry stated that he, JoAnn and Chuck Schiabile visited O'sakame Park to identify where to place historic signs. Larry showed five images (three of which were aerial) to illustrate the proposed placement of the signs. Two benches are installed, and two more are expected to be delivered to the park. Larry showed a picture of the Clark/Robbins house (no longer there) and identified its former location.

Other Business

- **"Early Life and Traditions" Books** – Kathy said that the supply of books is replenished. There are now 20 sets available at Riegel Ridge.
- **Dendrochronology** – Larry shared that this project is currently on hold.
- **Hunterdon County 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution** – The next meeting will be held on March 2, 2024. Joe attended the February meeting. He gave an update of the attendance and programs.

Show & Tell

- **Booklet** – Holland Township, Eight-fifth Anniversary 1879-1964; Holland Twp. Committee - Kathy
- **Pennsylvania Death Certificate** – Walter Josiah Clark (1889-1959), aka "Bo Shank", of Milford. He was related to the well-known Clark family interred at Milford Christian Churchyard.

Public Comment - N/A

Next Meeting: Monday, March 4th, 2024 at 7:00PM

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 PM