

Holland Township Historic Preservation Commission Meeting

Monday, April 1, 2024
Holland Twp. Municipal Building, 7 PM

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

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

Excused: Dan Bush, Tim Fazekas

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

March 2024 Minutes Were Approved.

Holland Township 150th Anniversary

Kathy Sciarello reported that she did not receive an update from Tim Fazekas.

Beverly Kirby-McDonough stated she did not receive communication from Joan Stachnik, President of the Women's Club, regarding the 150th Postcard Contest. The Women's Club was focused on their craft and vendor fundraiser of March 23rd. Beverly will follow up with an email to Mrs. Stachnik. Kathy said that Stephanie Snyder, Holland School Superintendent, is inquiring about the project. Kathy mailed her a copy of the announcement (poster) that was drafted by Melissa Tigar. Also, Kathy ordered a sample pack of 9" x 12" tagboard paper. The Commission needs to know how much paper will be required by the school.

Kathy reported that the 150th Anniversary Booklet is progressing nicely. Most of the booklet is already written, but needs formatting and some additional pictures. Pictures are still needed from the Board of Health, Land Use Board and the Holland Library. Kathy had an outstanding question about the precise location of Pursley's Ferry due to conflicting historical records.

Kathy mentioned that she did not receive an acknowledgment of the State Resolution that was presented at the special Hunterdon County Board of Commissioners Meeting of March 19th.

Grandstand Renovation and Riegel Ridge Community Center

Larry LaFevre said he spoke with Michael Margulies several times. Mr. Margulies will send a contract to Holland Township soon. Larry also mentioned that he will speak with William Millette, Open Space Coordinator – Hunterdon County, about the new County grant that supports recreation.

Kathy mentioned that grants for Riegel Ridge appear on the April 2nd Township Committee agenda.

Historic Sign for O'sakame Park

Larry reported that both O'sakame Park signs are now installed. Larry will arrange to meet with JoAnn Bonham Schaible to complete vendor surveys, including photographs and feedback.

Resolution: Pledge to Make the Township of Holland a Sustainable Land Use Community

Larry reviewed this resolution adopted by the Township Committee on March 5th and signed by the Municipal Clerk. The resolution covers an array of topics. However, it excludes adaptive reuse of existing buildings. Larry said there are many local examples of reuse. It may be too late to add this point to the resolution, but it could be added to the Master Plan. This Commission agrees. Larry will determine an appropriate contact to address this matter.

Fine / Riegel / Drake Family Graveyard

Larry received a phone call from Michael Moleti regarding a small burial ground on his property in Finesville. The property is included on the National Register of Historic Places. Known as “Chelsea Forge Tavern”, the land was formerly owned by Philip Fine and later by John L. Riegel. The local address is 380 Mt. Joy Road in Holland. Mr. Moleti wants to restore and rededicate this small cemetery. Two ancient headstones are leaning up against the exterior of the old barn. Beverly reached out to Mr. Moleti and planned a site visit for April 11th at 10:30AM. Commission members are invited to attend.

Other Business

- **1770 Antique Map** – Larry showed a map of The Province of Pennsylvania that he purchased from BLR Antique Maps, Inc. It shows sites in Bucks County and Hunterdon County. It includes some interesting local place names such as “London Ferry” and “Sunburn”.
- **Ice Harvesting** – Larry mentioned a small gathering where Jack Opdyke showed log books and bills from the Pennsylvania Railroad. The railroad loaded ice for transport in the area where Opdyke’s Lumber is located today.

Show & Tell

- **Image of Theodore Wahl Lithograph** – This portrait is identified as Betty McKinney (nee Anna Elizabeth Shank), a former resident of Milford. Estimated date of work is 1946-47; limited edition of 25 original lithographs. - Larry

Public Comment - N/A

Next Meeting: Monday, May 6th, 2024 at 7:00PM

Meeting Adjourned at 7:46 PM