Pennington Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes 10/19/22

Opening Statement

Adequate public notice of this meeting has been posted in Borough Hall and sent to the officially designated newspaper, the Hopewell Valley News. This meeting was held via Zoom.

Attendance

Robert Chandler, Jack Davis, Eric Holtermann, Natalie Shivers, Mary Baum, Barbara Kirsch, Hannah Williams, Katrina Homel Katie Ronollo, Secretary

Open time for public address

Eric opened the meeting for public address. There were 2 people in the waiting room. When asked to state their names and addresses neither one responded. These people were removed from the meeting to ensure the security of the meeting. The open address period was closed.

Minutes

The September minutes were approved via a motion by Mary and a second by Bob. All were in favor via voice vote.

APPLICATIONS

241 South Main Street

Work is proceeding at this location. The owner sent a mockup of the windows. While the initial one was not adequate, a second version looked ok. Work is primarily happening in the interior. Katie has confirmed that building and electrical permits have been issued.

147 South Main Street

The siding project is going well.

Pennington School

A small group of commission members met with Pennington School officials to discuss the design for the front of Old Main. There were no major changes from the prior plan presented at the July HPC meeting. The plan still includes a driveway in front of Old Main with the parking moved to the right and left a little. The Pennington School team did not present other options or discuss options that been considered and rejected. The plan involves closing the current main entrance off of West Delaware Avenue and making a new entrance that extends Green Street straight onto the campus. This

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configuration would make the current "T" intersection at Green Street and West Delaware Avenue into a cross street. This cross street proposal may decrease vehicular and pedestrian safety. In addition, the proposed drive in front of Old Main will create a third exit onto an already congested Burd Street. Katie noted that a traffic study was supplied at the time of the initial Planning Board application.

Eric will summarize comments from commission members to share with the Planning Board and Pennington School. One idea that could be added to the comments is to consider the loop in the rear of Old Main as an alternative drop off and parking site for visitors to Old Main.

NEW BUSINESS

Enforcement

Eric spoke to John Flemming, the Zoning Officer regarding assistance with enforcement of the Historic Preservation Ordinance. The ordinance specifies that the Zoning Officer is responsible for contact with homeowners that are not following the guidance of the Historic Preservation Ordinance.

2023 Budget

The current budget is \$500.00 a year. Eric would like to ask for the same amount in 2023. Katrina mentioned the option of joining Preservation New Jersey. The cost for a governmental commission is \$100 per year. 10 members receive access to Preservation NJ benefits with this membership. With a motion from Katrina and a second from Mary, all members were in favor of joining.

Master Planning Update

No updates.

Ordinance Review

Katrina, Eric and Bob have set a date to meet to discuss changes to the ordinance.

OLD BUSINESS

Unauthorized Work Notice

Eric has incorporated edits and it is complete.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7:30pm on November 15. The November meeting will be cancelled if there are no new applications or movement on the Pennington School application.