

Pennington Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
4/19/22

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. Because of the state of emergency in New Jersey regarding Covid-19, the meeting will be held remotely via Zoom.

Attendance

Robert Chandler, Jack Davis, Eric Holtermann, Katrina Homel, Barbara Kirsh, Natalie Shivers, Mary Baum, Kait Angarone

Past Minutes

There were no comments on the March, 2022 minutes. Motion to accept was made by Barbara, and seconded by Mary; all approved via voice vote.

New Business

Applications

There are no new applications for review.

Hopewell Valley Heritage Week

Jack discussed Heritage week. The kick-off is May 22. There is an event at the Pennington African American Cemetery. This commission has been asked to host a table at the event and/or a house/walking tour. It has been discussed that Eric will cover the architecture and Jack will cover the history part of a walking tour. Timing and the schedule were discussed. Jack will follow-up with details. The theme this year is colonial trades and crafts and it would be great if some of this could be incorporated into the tour. It might be a good idea to do a table at Pennington Day.

241 South Main Street

This location has a new owner. The owner has been notified about the historic nature of his home and the rules of the historic area. His email has been shared with Eric and he has been given the link to the historic commission ordinance. Limited knowledge of the owner and situation seems to indicate that the owner does not have interest in historic preservation, the interest lies in flipping the house. Eric will reach out to the owner to offer information.

Newsletter

Historic Preservation Commission information will be included in the next newsletter. Eric shared the blurb he has written and all agree that the tone is appropriate. Kati suggested that an explanatory statement and possibly a link be added.

Information on Historic District

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Kati suggested that a note be added to the deeds of the homes in the historic district.

Website Updates

All requested updates and links have been completed. Once we have archived all the prior applications we will add a note to the site that applications are available at the Borough office. Natalie will work on the description and Eric will share information that he has. Please share with Natalie any examples you may know of as a model for this section.

Annual NJ Historic Preservation Conference

The conference is taking place in Trenton on Friday June 3. Historic Preservation Commission funds can pay for registration. Please let Katie and Eric know if you are interested in attending. The Early Bird deadline is May 1.

Review of Ordinance

Bob and Eric will review the ordinance and add comments based on recommendations/suggestions from the State office. One suggestion is to tighten some definitions, for example, the definition of "replaced in kind." Any changes in the ordinance will need to be approved by Council.

Open Discussion

Natalie had a question about new siding going on a house in the historic district. Eric will reach out with some information so they are aware of the details in the ordinance regarding replacement.

Regarding notes in seller's deeds; Katrina researched seller's disclosures and there is question on the standard disclosure regarding disclosing whether or not the home is in a historic district. Kait mentioned that in Haddonfield, NJ a note in the deed of historic homes is required and the seller must provide a copy of the ordinance to the buyer. Having this might help to inform new owners and assist in preserving the historic area.

Jack asked about the home in back of the bank. Construction seems to have halted and it may be because the owners are struggling to find a contractor.

Meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting is scheduled for May 17 @7:30.