

Morris Township Historic Preservation Commission

Minutes for June 21, 2016 at 7:30pm

Carol Barkin called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

In attendance: Carol Barkin, Jean Rich, Sarah Harris, Craig Goss and Sue Young, with two members of the public, Milan Kirby (41 Whitehead Road) and Mary Ross, (2 Doe Hill Road).

Minutes from the March meeting were approved.

Old Business:

Unitarian Church project:

“MUUF's lawyer decided to postpone his summation until June 6. The neighbors again emphasized that the additional parking should be located in the back of their property. Other concerns: trees being taken down, the parking on the local roads, the noise associated with such a venue, rules about noise and misconduct – who will manage at these events.”

Sue attended the Board of Adjustment meeting on June 6th to hear the summary of MUUF's attorney. The following are her comments:

“The meeting was long and a closed session, public comments were completed at the last meeting – the summarizing attorney (Mr. Calli) started his comments by complaining that it took 2 years to get to this point and re-issued the threat that the MUUF still could sell the property and raze the mansion if it chose to. He wanted to “set the conditions for tonight and wanted a balance to be struck”. He mentioned that there were no complaints to the initial application and that the initial experts were never challenged. He did not mention that they and their architect had no idea that the property was on the National Register. He did go on to mention that there were too many tedious drafts to the design.

Eventually Mr. Haan spoke about the HPC. He mentioned to the Board that the “building had come a long way in its design” and that “the HPC could only give advice, but it was not mandatory to listen to”. Linda Murphy mentioned that the Applicant did make an effort in the last design to be in sync with the HPC comments.” Finally a motion was made and the application was approved.

Whitehead Bridge South – discussion with 2 members of the public

Background: The bridge design should be in keeping with the original design. The County wants to bring the bridge up to standards that are required in building a new bridge. The current width is 21 feet. The County wants to increase the width to 26 feet. The width of the bridge and the speeding on Whitehead Road is the concern of Milan and Mary who both live on Whitehead Road about ¼ mile from the bridge. Jean Rich and Sarah Harris are in agreement with Milan and Mary.

Sarah said that she was in touch with SHPO (NJ State Historic Preservation Office) and that they have requested a meeting with the County Engineers and a representative of SHPO to meet at the bridge to discuss the design, especially the width of the bridge and concern for speeding. Sarah will let everyone know when that meeting will occur.

Sue said that she will follow up with Jim Slate, township engineer, about the gap between the road and the guard rail on the north-bound side of Whitehead Road going up the hill towards Milan's house. Hopefully, there will be a solution to this problem.

The next meeting will be July 19th at 7:30pm.

This meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Young
Recording Secretary