

**Morris Township Historic Preservation Commission
Minutes, September 20, 20106**

Call to Order: Carol Barkin called the meeting to order at 7:40. In attendance: Carol Barkin, Craig Goss, Sarah Harris, Jean Rich and Judith Sacks Bliss. Also in attendance was a member of the community, Siva Jonnada.

Old Business:

1. **Knox Artillery Park** Township resident Joe Attamante continues to be interested in any support from the HPC and the Township to preserve what may remain under the earth of the park (located in a residential district). Carol Barkin met with Mayor Dan Caffrey, Jim Slate, Township Engineer, Administrator Tim Quinn and Parks and Recreation Director Bill Foelsch. According to Mayor Caffrey, the Township position is that any artifacts that may remain are on private property and the Township is not interested in encroaching on private property rights. Given that position the HPC will monitor any permits for formal demolition or construction in that area for the foreseeable future with the intention of seeking approval to excavate the area prior to construction. The area has already received a Certificate for Eligibility from SHPO in Trenton and has a level of protection now. Township personnel and Morris County Parks have been informed of our interest in these properties.

If, in the future, the HPC has an opportunity to support an open space purchase of any or all of the land and the excavation of the area by a professional archeologist, we suggest it be done in conjunction with the Morris County Parks Commission with the hope of including the area as part of the Morris County Park system for long-term preservation.

2. **Morristown Unitarian Fellowship aka "Gateways" Thorne Mansion Addition:** This is a property on both the National and New Jersey Register's of Historic Places. The Fellowship has received approval from the Township as of August to proceed with its addition, with modifications including making the addition more complementary to the style of the existing building according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for adding onto an historic building, as well as another idea proposed by the HPC to set the addition back a minimum of 10'. These HPC modifications to the original plans put forth by the Fellowship's architect's will help to preserve the unique historic characteristics of the Delano and Aldrich circa 1911 building. The approved addition will be an appendage to the right side, as facing the historic building. It will also include additional parking and landscaping.
3. **Alnwick Hall aka "the Abbey":** This Madison Avenue property owned by Tom Maoli has been for sale for several years. A permit to demolish the building was applied for. The HPC is very interested in the preservation of the building and introduced a local developer to the property, which unfortunately did not meet his needs. In the short run the property will be saved through Spring of 2017 as the Women's Association for Morristown Medical Center has selected it as the 18th Annual Mansion in May site. The HPC continues to hope for the preservation of this historic building and marketing the site as part of Mansion in May has proved successful in the past.
4. **Whitehead Bridge located in the Washington Valley:** The HPC has participated in meetings with Morris County and Morris Township on the planned renovation of the bridge

on Whitehead Rd. The County has identified the bridge as needing changes including widening it by 5 feet, changing the degree of curvature of the road leading to the bridge and removing architectural elements that have been in place for many years. Area residents and the HPC are concerned that the proposed changes will alter the character of the road, which was originally designed for horses and carriages and lends authenticity to the historic nature of the area. The HPC considers the design of the bridge to be of historical significance to the historic neighborhood and it is, in fact, a contributing structure to the Washington Valley Historic District. It is subject to review by SHPO since a government entity is encroaching on a registered property.

Members of the HPC met with Morris County engineers on September 8. Morris County has stated that the changes are required and no further modifications can be made. Sarah Harris and Carol Barkin on behalf of HPC (along with residents of Whitehead Road) will continue to appeal to both SHPO and the County to try to minimize proposed changes – especially the widening of the bridge. The HPC will have an opportunity to sit down with Township representatives as well

New Business:

4. **284 Mendham Road:** This Washington Valley house has been on the market for several years. An interested buyer, at Albert Mastrobattista, Township Construction Official/Building Inspector's, suggestion, contacted Carol Barkin with regard to what restrictions the HPC would place on the building. Carol explained that other than the facade the HPC's influence on proposed changes would likely be minimal.
5. **Historic Signage:** Sarah has agreed to visit each of the six historic designation signs and report back to us at the next meeting on their condition. Carol will do an archival search and locate the paperwork with the original sign orders and vendors.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35PM

Next Meeting: 10/18/2016 at 7:30PM in Township conference room 2

Respectfully submitted by Judith Sacks Bliss