

## **Morris Township Historic Preservation Minutes, February 27, 2018 at 7:30pm**

**Call to order:** Carol Barkin opened the meeting at 7:30.

**Attendance:** Carol Barkin, Judith Sacks-Bliss, Craig Goss, Erich Huhn, Sue Young and our guest speaker, Bert Dunkerly, Chief of Interpretation – MNHP and acting Director Washington Headquarters' new Discover History Gallery in Morristown. Bert's time in Morristown will be coming to an end soon.

Bert spoke about his projects in Morristown, PA, Richmond, VA. He currently lives in Jockey Hollow near the Cross Estate. There are only 3 buildings in the Park System that are original, Wick House, Ford Mansion and the Guerin house which was rebuilt in the 1930s by the Civil Conservation Corp.

The Civilian Conservation Corp. built a replica of a hospital in 1920 in Jockey Hollow located at the bottom of the hill across from the parking lot. It is no longer there. They reconstructed 4 of the soldier's huts and in doing so did not follow the same rules we do today. They destroyed the archeological structures and aspects of the original foundations, stonework and surrounding area. Only 4 huts were rebuilt representing the huts for 13,000 troops that descended upon Morristown (a population of 300 people) and surrounding areas. No work was done at Knox Hill.

A Trades Facility located in VA and run by the NPS can dispatch a whole crew to help with restoration of a project, using old methods and skills, brick and shingles. They can provide technical assistance to outside groups who are restoring sites. Always using the Standards of the Secretary of the Interior, restoration must include the same types of materials, reusing as much of the original as possible and documenting the process with photos and records.

Bert said that he stops at all historic markers which illustrate the value of the area. We suggested that he visit the interpretive signs in Washington Valley.

### **Reorganization:**

Carol will remain the Chairperson, Erich will be Vice-Chair and Sue Young will be recording secretary. Sue has resigned from the Commission as of January 1<sup>st</sup> but will remain as recording secretary.

**Minutes:** from December 2017 were read and approved.

### **Old Business:**

- 122 Mt. Kemble, the 1884 brick structure has been torn down. We had asked Mr. Grant, the architect and builder, to save and reuse the historic brick (we think was from Pruddentown), to create an entrance sign for the new complex.

- Prudenttown Sign: the bushes need to be trimmed back.
- May is National Historic Preservation Month, The Annual NJ State Preservation Conference will be held at Patterson Community College, June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Tour of the Falls will be on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are available.
- Our meetings will be changed to the last Tuesday of the month in 2018.
- Judith spent a great deal of time looking through the archival records for houses built between 1700 and 1900 in Morris Twp. She found and recorded 208 in the District. Oddly enough, she noticed that many of the houses had a date of 1887. It was decided that the record books must only go back to that year, even though many houses were built prior to 1887. We will look into that, especially since the homes in Washington Valley date back to the 1700s.

**New Business:**

- No new applications from the Bd. Of Adjustment or Planning Board for us to review.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30pm

**Meeting adjourned**