

**Morris Township Historic Preservation Commission
Minutes, October 30, 2017**

Call to Order: Carol Barkin called the meeting to order at 7:30. In attendance: Carol Barkin, Craig Goss, Sarah Harris, Erich Huhn, Jean Rich, and Judith Sacks Bliss. Also in attendance was a Marion Harris; Vice Chair of the Morristown Historic Preservation Commission.

Review and Approval of September 2017 Minutes:

1. Minutes were approved with correction of Erich Huhn's name spelling.

Old Business:

1. **131 Western Avenue** Currently, plans have been withdrawn. The Township does not know if the owners will reapply. Erich Huhn invited the owners to the HPC October meeting, they declined his invitation, but indicated that they're open to input. It seems that their withdrawal may have been the result of neighbor resistance to the size and/or scope of the additions. This is a property located at the corner of Western and Locust was purchased in March 2017. Erich Huhn will continue to monitor the applicant's plans.
2. **214 Hanover avenue aka Puff's Tavern:** The current owner of the property has subsequent to our meeting allowed us to begin preliminary research into gaining SHPO recognition of the property. A local high school student (with assistance from her family and the HPC) will begin the necessary research to start the process.
3. **Possible Fairchild Historic District:** As discussed in prior meetings, the necessary renovation of the Mill Road Bridge and SHPO involvement may offer an opportunity to recognize the historical significance of the area that once housed an 18th century forge and a 19th century paper mill. Although those structures are long gone, many of the homes in the area were built during those two periods. Marion Harris will contact SHPO to ascertain the progress of the survey they have asked Morris County to complete before alterations to the existing bridge. Question arose as to whether noncontiguous properties could be collected into a single district for the purpose of designation.
4. **Historic District Signs** Sarah Harris reported that the Township has taken care of most of the signs, painting and cutting foliage that eclipsed some. Further restoration is needed on one or more signs, the Township will be looking at ways to restore or replace those in need.

New Business:

5. **Judging Integrity of an Historic Property:** Marion Harris provided general guidelines on how to fairly assess integrity of an historic property that has undergone alterations. She suggested that among the criteria is whether the changes made were appropriate or inappropriate; sympathetic or cross purpose to the original design and to look at how much has been changed. Marion recommended reviewing the Secretary of the Interior's Standards while judging. One should question if they're any fake elements (nonstandard additions) Have there been additions of details that change the integrity of the house for its period? Patterns of fenestration – do they match the period or are reasonable iterations of what would have been available at the time the building was constructed? Any not easily removed alterations may cause a building to lose its integrity as historic.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50PM

Next Meeting: 12/19/17 at 7:30PM in Township conference room 2

Respectfully submitted by Judith Sacks Bliss