

## **Morris Township Historic Preservation Commission Minutes of May 23, 2017**

Call to order, at 7:38pm

Attendance: Carol Barkin, Sarah Harris, Jean Rich, Judith Sacks-Bliss, Erich Huhn, Craig Goss and Sue Young

Minutes from March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting, read. A motion to approve was made by Judith, seconded by Sarah. The April meeting had been cancelled, no minutes.

OLD BUSINESS: Discussions

- Whitehead Road Bridge: demolition and construction will probably start spring of 2018. The County is awaiting all permits from the DEP. The WVCA will take pictures for their archives before, during and after the construction.
- Signage repair: Washington Valley sign at the corner of Tingley and Mendham Road is in the hands of the Mendham Twp. Historic Preservation Commission. The 2 WVHD and the Prudentown signs have yet to be painted and repaired by the Twp.
- Update of MUUF: The neighbors have filed against the MUUF again, for being a non-residential facility in a neighborhood. More to come.
- Colgate-Palmolive: We need to save the Gates/pillars of the old estate. Carol will send letters to Tim Quinn, Marion Harris and Jim Slate.
- Glynallen: the owners might be applying for venue status so they can have events at the mansion such as weddings. Neighbors might resist.
- Historic Property Inventory Update: Judith is continuing to work on the first phase. The second phase will be identifying houses 50 years and older – the list will have to be updated every year.
- Master Plan Update and Timeline: Carol presented 2 requests to the Planning Board - a request for a 90-day demolition moratorium ordinance that will enable the HPC to evaluate the historic value of the house or building and may be give us time to save, postpone and come up with a better alternative than demolition. Also, a request for designated areas for B&B zoning such as 284 Mendham Road, Knox Hill, the Abbey, to name a few locations. Twp. Committee member, Louise Johnson, apparently seems open to exploring that idea. The Planning Board will be meeting again on July 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss their summary and ask for public input.

- Puff's Tavern: back on sale. It is the oldest house in the Twp. Judith will call the Realtor. Too bad that Speedwell Village can't find space for it. It is in terrible shape and too expensive to restore it.
- Post Office: still on hold, no action taken by the Twp.
- Louella Watkins (Hauck) house at 219 Sussex Avenue is still for sale. Sue will monitor it.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- Pierson House: the house was never on the National or State Register. Perhaps we should write a letter to SHPO for their opinion? The house was built in 1812.
- Craig spoke about his concerns about the neighborhood close to Atlantic Health's proposed sale of their facility on Mt. Kemble Avenue. This facility and all the outbuildings located on 49 acres will be split along Twp. and Morristown boundaries and either torn down or restored. Most would be historic, but never on the Register. It may leave the 7 existing residential homes in between huge and unsightly buildings.
- The Abbey's future: MIM is in full swing, hopefully that will bring buyers to the Abbey so it can be sold.
- New Applications: Prospect Street Bridge, more information to come. Carol would like to revisit 88 MLK, an 8 multi-unit housing building, especially since Marion Harris has given input to design of the new building.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the building is in Morris Twp. and  $\frac{3}{4}$  located in Morristown.
- Educational program: New Jersey Heritage Meeting on June 7<sup>th</sup> at the Cornelius Lowe House in Piscataway, with guest speakers Ken Miller and Marion Gage, professor of Architecture and Historic Preservation.
- Adjournment: next meeting will be June 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm

Respectfully submitted:  
Sue Young