

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes for December 17, 2008

Present: Dale Blum, Caryl Brackenridge, Keith Hayes, Susan Penney, and Eileen Stokes. This regularly scheduled December meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission, having been advertised in the *Observer Tribune* in January, 2008, and posted on the Municipal Building Bulletin Board and the Township web site, was called to order at 7:50 p.m.

Chairman Stokes noted that Brendan Stokes was auditing the meeting for a Boy Scout project.

Minutes

Only three Commissioners present at this meeting were also present at the November 19th meeting, so the HPC could not vote on the November minutes.

Applicants:

Scott Mortenson, Cedarwood Landscaping, 20 Schooley's Mtn. Rd., B27,L22, German Valley Historic District.

Applicant presented drawings of two signs and photos of the requested locations on the property which was once Welsh's Lumber Yard and later Ballantine's. As one of the signs would replace an old Ballantine sign, Dale Blum asked if it might be donated to the Historical Society. Mr. Mortenson said he would ask the property owners.

Caryl Brackenridge made a motion, seconded by Keith Hayes and unanimously approved by a roll call vote, to issue COA(**RO-12-01-08**) approving the addition of two unlit aluminum signs with vinyl lettering. The Rte, 24 sign will be double sided, mounted on wood, and as wide as possible to fit the existing space under the kiosk roof and still meet sign ordinance criteria. The second sign will be mounted directly on the rear metal fence to replace an existing, rusted Ballantine Lumber sign.

Jeff and JoAnn Chaplin, Weiss House, 1 E. Mill Rd., B35,L14, German Valley Historic District

The applicants wish to erect a 4 ft. high anodized aluminum fence in the back of the property to contain their dog. They presented a survey of the property indicating the location of the proposed fence and a Rudl Fencing catalogue with a picture of the fence they wished to use. Caryl Brackenridge made a motion, seconded by Susan Penney and unanimously approved by a roll call vote, to issue COA(**RO-12-02-08**) approving the installation of a 4 foot high, two-gated, anodized aluminum fence described as "S-2 Berkshire" in the Rudl brochure. The fence will enclose the grassed area bounded by Fairmount Rd., the tie fence, the slate walkway and the premises itself as shown on the survey dated 8/11/08.

Old Business

6 Schooley's Mountain Rd. - Caryl Brackenridge and Ed Gagne met with Mr. Sims and his contractor. At this time, all the work is being extremely well done, with care taken to match original features and trim. Caryl and Ed discussed the HPC's role in following the Historic Preservation Ordinance and the importance of conferring with the HPC before undertaking work. Mr. Sims indicated that after the windows are restored, he needs to replace the gutters. Caryl and Ed encouraged him to contact HPC when he is ready to do that work.

28 Schooley's Mtn. Rd. - Eileen will follow up discussions with the owner by sending him a letter reminding him that the windows in the original part of the house must be retained and the original door has been repaired by Bob Stokes and must be re-installed. She will talk to the architect and tell him that the plans have to be altered to reflect the COA, so the contractor has plans to work from. The plans show windows being moved and are dated after the COA stating that the windows could not be moved.

Schooley's Mtn. General Store - Eileen will send a letter to Mr. Andrich asking for the results of his inquiries. What is the temperature of the vent and is there paint that can be applied to it?

New Business

Re-appointments - Susan Penney will fill Caryl Brackenridge's unexpired term. Bill Beute will replace Paul Krylowski whose term is expired. Caryl will serve as an alternate until an alternate is found to replace her, and one new alternate is needed now.

Sidewalk Project Authorization - Township needed a freshwater wetlands permit but was turned down because they did not have SHPO permission for work in the Historic District. The Township requested Eileen's help and she contacted SHPO and asked them if the sidewalks could be considered an extension of original sidewalk work. Both the Township and SHPO are looking for that paperwork.

Plat B33, L6 - Outbuildings are going to be demolished so HPC will request that they first be measured and documented for our barn inventory.

Inquiry - Dan Tuttle, 46 Rock Rd. contacted Eileen. He stated that the center of his house is very old and he wants to protect it from someone purchasing the house and tearing it down for the lot. It is very doubtful that it is eligible for the National Register. Eileen suggested that he document the old section of the house and the information could be included in the Acroterion Morris County Historic Sites Report.

Inquiry - Mr. Christie called Eileen because he is interested in the River Building for his electrical contracting business.

Mailbag - The HPC commissioners have been invited to the Township Committee Reorganization Meeting on January 6.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be January 21 at 7:30 p.m.

The Work Sessions on the first Wednesday of the odd-numbered months will not commence until the 2009 schedule is properly advertised in the Observer Tribune and the Daily Record, in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act.

This meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Caryl R. Brackenridge, Secretary