

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes for October 21, 2009

Present: Dale Blum, Caryl Brackenridge, Keith Hayes, Leah Korbel, Susan Penney, Barbara Rossi, and Eileen Stokes.

This regularly scheduled October meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission, having been advertised in the *Observer Tribune* and *The Daily Record* in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act, and posted on the Municipal Building Bulletin Board and the Township web site, was called to order at 7:38 p.m.

Minutes

The September 2 minutes were approved as written. The September 16 minutes were approved with the following corrections: Under Applicants, lines 12 and 13, change "easements" to "setbacks" so sentence reads, "There was a lengthy discussion about setbacks....." Under New Business, Bartley Road Bridge, change "weathered copper rails" to "weathered copper-colored rails." Motion to approve was made by Keith Hayes and seconded by Barbara Rossi.

Applicants:

Zion Lutheran Church, 11-13 Schooley's Mtn. Rd. German Valley Historic District

David Bowles, Barbara Schulz and Bill Keane appeared before the HPC seeking a COA approving the demolition of a garage located on the church property. Barbara Rossi recused herself from the discussion.

Applicants stated that the garage was not used, windows were rotten, floor wasn't safe and building was in need of much maintenance. HPC noted that photos supplied by applicant did not substantiate this level of deterioration in this outbuilding which appears on an 1887 map and is #29 in the German Valley Historic District nomination. Eileen read a communication from Architect Ed Gagne stating that the outbuilding dated from the 1870's, was probably stuccoed in the 1940' and should be preserved.

Bill Keane compared the garage with the Standards for Demolition, concluding that it was "old" not "historic," had already been altered, was a standard barn design and would be in an altered setting when the church addition was built. HPC pointed out that barns and other small outbuildings are an important part of an historic setting and are rapidly disappearing. Applicants agreed to meet on site with Keith and Eileen to assess the condition of the building and return before the HPC for a decision on November 18..

Jeff Brooks, 54 Schooley's Mtn. Rd., B25, L51, German Valley Historic District

Applicant appeared before the HPC regarding outdoor lighting and stone wall terracing. Dale Blum made the motion, seconded by Keith Hayes and unanimously approved to issue COA (RO-10-01-09) for six (6) low voltage lights on the front path and the stone wall terracing recently constructed to improve drainage on the property.

Old Business

Cell tower, Ort Farms - Planning Board application underway. Other possibilities are still being investigated.

Roehrich House - Heath Village insurance for this property is being canceled and town has approved demolition. Town Committee agreed to allow HPC to document the house and the Wash. Twp. Land Trust volunteers to salvage historic items to be used locally. Eileen and Barbara will do the documentation and all volunteers will be covered under the Land Trust's insurance. The contractor working on 11 East Mill Road would like to use the Roehrich House banister (3 stories of hand rails and balusters) Since this will be a private residence, HPC discussed a codicil to the deed for the house, documenting the banister and requiring that it remain in the house permanently.

Bartley Road project - The culvert is completed and the road opened, but blue stone capping has not been installed yet.

New Business

Eileen Stokes attended a Drew U. cemetery workshop and Eileen, Susan Penney, Dale Blum, Leah Korbel and Barbara Rossi will attend CAMP training on November 13.

Re-appointment letters are going out for Brackenridge, Hayes and Rossi. Commissioners should look at write-up in Twp. Directory and suggest changes for the 2010 Directory.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be November 4 (workshop) at 7:30 pm.

This meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Caryl R. Brackenridge

Motion to accept as written: Eileen Stokes
Second: Barbara Rossi
Approved: Blum, Brackenridge, Rossi, Stokes
November 18, 2009