

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
September 19, 2012

This regularly scheduled September meeting of the Historic Preservation commission, 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 website, was called to order at 7:35 by Chairman Stokes.

Present: Eileen Stokes, Ed Gagne, Barbara Rossi, Dale Blum, Susan Penney, Leah Korbel, Gregg Forsbrey (late), Jennifer Gorini.

Absent: Bill Beute

Others: Bill Leavens-trustee for the Middle Valley Cemetery, Hunter Woinicki

Minutes: Susan Penney moved that the 07/18/12 minutes be approved as presented. Motion was seconded by Jennifer Gorini and the minutes were passed unanimously. Ed Gagne abstained. The 09/05/12 minutes were held over until the October meeting.

Applicants:

- Applicant Hunter Woinicki of Boy Scout Troop 36 presented his Eagle Scout project. He stated that as the Middle Valley Cemetery wall is “falling apart”, and the concrete layer is almost falling into the road, he would like to chip off the concrete on the arch of the wall, surrounding the gate and repoint the stone. He added that Doc Miller taught him how to repoint stone. Barbara Rossi asked him if he would be using historic mortar. Ed Gagne, who took a masters course in stone work at UPenn 20 years ago suggested a sand/cement/lime ratio of 9/4/1. so it won't stick to the rocks. Dale Blum said that she did not know anything about Doc Miller's qualifications as an historic mason and Ed Gagne mentioned that Hunter would need more direction to make his work historically accurate. He also mentioned that he thinks the stucco is “modern day” and not historic to the cemetery. The oldest headstones are closest to West Mill.

The HPC's concern is that Hunter is “getting in over his head” in that, as Barbara Rossi stated, the number one step is to put together a preservation plan **by a qualified person**. It would be Hunter's responsibility to determine whether the coating on the stones is stucco or concrete. Eileen Stokes said that Bill thought the stucco was ~25 years old, and that she had talked to Randy Bean on July 9 and he said that Melvin Bolmer did **repair work** # 25 years ago **but did not add the stucco**. However, he **Randy** never remembers # **stucco not being done on the walls** and he lived on Turtleback Rd. Bill Leavens and Ed Gagne left **the** meeting to retrieve a sample of the concrete.

8:05PM-Bill and Ed returned to the meeting with a sample of the concrete. Ed said that it is from the 60s or 70s and is Portland Cement. Water is getting in and not able to get out because it is waterproof. Ed again suggested a 9/4/1 mix. Hunter responded that Doc Miller suggested he use a ratio of ½ yard mason sand to 3 bags of lime to 2 bags of Portland Cement. Ed wondered if Hunter could call it a “stabilization project” to hold off further decomposition until enough money could be found to restore it. Eileen Stokes suggested that the issues at hand are: does the stucco belong on the wall and would Boy Scouts be able to do a proper job of this magnitude, in regards to training and consistency of work. She also noted that the area Hunter would be working on is only **about 2%** of the entire wall surrounding the cemetery. **Gregg Forsbrey arrived.**

The conversation turned to discussing related projects. Eileen suggested Hunter might want to look at the historic 1880 barn on the Zion Lutheran property and the work that could be done on that. Gregg and Ed suggested that surveying the cemetery and documenting it would fulfil the leadership components integral to an Eagle project. Bill suggested that there were alternative projects that were not weather dependant.

Dale said the general consensus of the HPC was that the project was too big, and Bill Leavens suggested that possibly the completely fallen down part could be done to at least repair it.

Chairman Stokes asked Hunter if he wanted to withdraw his project proposal, as it was not going to be approved by the HPC. Hunter replied that he did want to withdraw his project proposal.

- Zion Lutheran Church (11 Schooley's Mountain Road GVHD B33 L44)

Brian Bumpus appeared on behalf of Zion Lutheran Church with an application for a new church sign to replace the current sign which is rotting. The new sign will be built by Tom Pendergast and have the same footprint as the current isign. It will be constructed from PVC but look like wood and will be painted a flat matte black or green, with gold. Zion Church in Oldwick has the same type of sign and it looks like wood. Preservation Brief #16 permits use of substitute materials on a limited basis only when they will match the appearance and general properties of the historic material and will afford extended durability. Ed Gagne moved to accept the sign as presented, Dale Blum seconded the motion and the resolution passed unanimously by roll call vote. Yea-Eileen Stokes, Ed Gagne, Barbara Rossi, Dale Blum, Susan Penney, Leah Korbel, Greg Forsbrey, Jennifer Gorini. Nay-0, Abstain-0.

Emmanuel Bible Church-Emmanuel Bible Church (3 Pleasant Grove Road, B31 L26) is outside the historic district because it was excluded because it is a new building. However, because it is located on an historic site, the church has approached the planning board because it wants to move dirt off site for a parking lot project. The site of the demolished Dorincourt bowling alley is the same as the church's playground. The Planning Board requested that the Commission meet with the Church representatives concerning the expansion of its parking area. Chairman Stokes replied that the HPC would be a resource for the church, as no one is still involved who worked with the church 25 years ago when it was constructed for insight on preservation of artifacts etc. from that time.

Middle Valley Bridge Replacement- The original (1889) abutments were to be kept. Chris Stephan took photos of knocked over stones on 09-18-12. Concrete footings will be poured on Friday, 09-21-12. The onsite engineer, Paul, will instruct the workers to number the stones for ease of replacing them as they were originally.

Barbara Rossi left at 9:55.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Leah Korbel

Minutes were approved with additions on 10/17/12. Motion by Jennifer Gorini. Second by Leah Korbel. Motion passed unanimously by Blum, Gagne, Gorini, Korbel, Penney and Stokes.