

Lower Township Historic Preservation Commission

Minutes of Meeting Held January 24, 2018

Present:

Pary Tell- Chairperson
Lewis Thomas- Vice Chairperson
Laurie Thomas-Secretary
Judy Gillis
James Morris
Michael Rosenberg
Bruce Tell
Rudy VonColln

The meeting was called to order 6:05 pm.

James Morris was welcomed as the newest member of the HPC.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

M-Michael Rosenberg 2nd – Judy Gillis

Reports:

Michael Rosenberg reported that minor subdivisions allow for demolitions without specific application made to the Planning Board.

Rudy VonColln reported on the progress of work on Union Bethel Cemetery. There are trees that need to be cut down because they pose a threat of falling on the headstones. Rudy also reported he found a broken headstone he is planning on restoring. He will contact one of the family members to update them on his plan. Rudy is also continuing the restoration of the headstones. Laurie Thomas reported Ed Runyon of the Cape May County Park offered to bring a ground penetrating sonar to the cemetery to aid in locating unmarked graves.

New Business:

The 2018 meeting dates for the Historic Preservation Commission were approved on motion of Michael Rosenberg and seconded by Rudy VonColln.

The Commission discussed possible programs as a community outreach and education program. The suggestions included Who Used to Live Here – Searching your property's past or Your Old House-Listing Your Home on the State or National Register. Possible utilizing the Fishing Creek School or the Township Meeting Room was also discussed.

The plans for the Foster House are moving forward with the support of Township Council.

Judy Gillis volunteered to make arrangements for the HPC to have a table at National Night Out.

The HPC roster needs to be updated with corrected names and contact info.

A scanning day for historic photos and documents of Lower Township was discussed with no definite date decided upon.

Old Business:

Bruce Tell has several options for purchasing plaques for the Historic Home Program. He will get additional information for the next meeting.

There is one vacant position on the HPC for an alternate.

The Board discussed the future of the Rutherford Property on Sea Grove Avenue. It is unclear whether the owners intend to demolish the building. The original plans do not include demolition, however several people have heard it is a possibility.

The next meeting will be February 28, 2018 at 6:00 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on motion of Rudy VonColln and seconded by Judy Gillis.

Submitted by
Laurie E Thomas
Secretary

Lower Township Historic Preservation Commission

Minutes for the Meeting Held

February 28, 2018

Chairperson Pary Tell called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Present:

Chairperson- Pary Tell

Judy Gillis

James Morris

Michael Rosenberg

Bruce Tell

Lewis Thomas

Absent-Laurie Thomas

Minutes of the January meeting were approved on motion of Judy Gillis and seconded by Michael Rosenberg.

Old Business:

Demolition Contracts- Michael Rosenberg brought Township documents showing hears held before demolition permits issued in 2009. No movement from Township departments. Need to go through the solicitor and council or possible approach Tom Conrad with amended ordinance. The existing ordinance includes wording that requires HPC be notified of demolitions by Planning and Zoning.

Union Bethel Cemetery- Paul Shulte plans on a cemetery cleanup for March 3rd at 10 am. There is also work being done to establish base soil to grow some kind of turf. Shulte reported the Builder's Club purchased additional stone cleaner for Rudy Von Coln's work on headstone restoration. Shulte also broached the subject of a survey of the property. There are still offers to replace damaged or mission headstones and future plans to conduct drone photography of the area as well as reconstructing the meeting house. Lewis Thomas will ask Laurie Thomas about a surveyor offering to complete a survey at no cost.

Lecture Series- Pary Tell will pursue a lecture series to be held in the Fishing Creek School, with Joan Berkey or Rita Fulginiti.

Plaques- Bruce Tell informed the group the latest design for plaques will cost approximates \$70.00 plus shipping of under \$20.00. He will have the information and invoice for the next meeting.

Vacancy- It was suggested that Nancy Geisert be approached regarding applying for the position of alternate on the HPC

The next meeting will be held March 28, 2018 at 6:00 pm

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm on motion of Lewis Thomas and seconded by Judy Gillis.

Submitted,

Laurie E. Boyd-Thomas
Secretary

Lower Township Historic Preservation Commission

Minutes for March 28, 2018

The meeting was called to order 6:07 pm

Present:

Pary Tell

Laurie Thomas

Michael Rosenberg

Judy Gillis

Rudy VonColn

Bruce Tell

James Morris

Absent:

Lewis Thomas

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved on motion of Michael Rosenberg and Rudy VonColn.

Reports:

Michael reported there were no new demolition permits issued

Rudy reported that cemetery work continues. Laurie contacted a surveyor regarding an official survey for the property,. Rudy will be leading a group through the woods to survey any damage done by recent storms.

New Business:

There was no report regarding any future programs

Pary gave each of the members a copy of the Historic Preservation Plan for Maplewood, New Jersey. The group will look at it and discuss it next meeting

James volunteered to construct a Facebook Page for Lower Township Historic Preservation Commission. He will contact Julie Picard to find out the best possible way to link with the Lower Township website and create an email address for the HPC.

The Friends of Fishing Creek School is sponsoring an Earth Day program on April 21 at the schoolhouse property.

Judy mentioned the Lower Township Rotary might be interested having a member of the HPC speak at a meeting.

Laurie discussed the possibility of conducting a history project competition for local schools

Judy announced the Annual Beach Clean-up to be held May 12th 9-12.

Laurie will look up information of 837 Seashore Road and bring the information to the next meeting.

Old Business:

Bruce is ready to order the first plaque.

Nancy Geisert was approached regarding volunteering as a HPC member.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned on motion of Judy Gillis and seconded by Bruce Tell.

Laurie E. Thomas, Secretary

Lower Township Historic Preservation Commission

Minutes for the Meeting Held

April 25, 2018

Chairperson Pary Tell called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Present:

Chairperson- Pary Tell

Secretary- Laurie Thomas

Judy Gillis

Michael Rosenberg

Bruce Tell

Lewis Thomas

Rudy VonColn

Absent:

James Morris

Minutes of the March meeting were accepted on motion of Michael Rosenberg and seconded by Lewis Thomas

Rudy spoke to the neighbor whose driveway runs parallel to the path to Union Bethel. The neighbor encouraged use of their stone driveway rather than the dirt path as a means of ingress and egress to the cemetery.

Laurie spoke to a Cape May County surveyor who agreed to help survey the cemetery when weather permits. Laurie is researching the names of the people interred at the cemetery for a future tour.

The possibility of hosting a History Day program with local schools was discussed.

Lew Thomas was contacted by a corporation regarding information on the possible archeological and historical significance of the property at the end of the parkway, in advance of the construction of a cell tower. This area encompasses the Ford Farm and Camp Wissahickon.

Mike Rosenberg questioned the condition of the Judge Nathaniel Foster House and the possibility of gaining access to the building and grounds.

Joan Berkey agreed to host a lecture regarding Lower Township history in the fall. Her fee is \$100.00. County Clerk, Rita Fulginiti will also be asked to speak in the future.

The board members were asked to review the Maplewood Township Historic Preservation Plan and consider using some of the ideas in the Lower Township Master Plan. The other suggestion was to approach the Township officials to gain their support of including the HPC in the permit application review process.

The HPC members were encouraged to attend the Beach Clean-up on May 12 and the cleaning of headstones at Green Creek Methodist Church on May 5.

The next meeting will be held May 23, 2017 at 6:00 pm

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:52 on motion of Judy Gillis and seconded by Rudy VonColn.

Submitted,

Laurie E. Thomas

Secretary

**Lower Township Historic Preservation Commission
Minutes of November 28, 2018**

Meeting was call to order at 6:02 by Chairperson Pary Tell

Attendance: Judy Gillis, Gail Donaghy, Mike Rosenberg, Bruce Tell, JR Morris, Pary Tell

Minutes of meeting of 10/24/2018 were approved, motion by Mike, second by Judy

Reports:

New or Existing Demolition Permits – Mike, nothing on the agenda for the last 2 months

New Business:

Mike – the budget request for the HPC was approved at the same amount as last Year (\$9000)

Judy – Can we find out what is going on with the Foster House

Pary – will email Colleen Crippen for update on grants and Tom Conrad for update on house maintenance

Old Business:

Presentation of plaque to Evelyn Waggenhoffer, 752 Seashore Rd

Pary – will email Julie Picard to see when time on Council agenda is available

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 6:25, motion by Judy, second by Mike