

Holland Township Historic Preservation Commission Meeting

Monday, May 7, 2018
Holland Twp. Municipal Building, 7 PM

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

Present: Joseph Becker, Larry LaFevre, Beverly Kirby-McDonough, Kathy Sciarello, Shirley Wydner
Excused: Carl Molter, Scott Wilhelm

Adequate notice of this meeting was given pursuant to the open public meeting act, by the Twp. Clerk on December 21, 2017.

Minutes of the April 2018 meeting were approved.

Books

Kathy Sciarello announced that the distribution of “*Early Life and Traditions of Holland Township – 1908-1915*” is almost complete. This book is now available for purchase at the Holland Township Municipal Building. Also, Kathy gave a copy of “*A Tour of Holland Township – As Seen and Told by Frank Stull -1995*” to each preservation commission member. Four copies of the book will be sent to Mrs. Frank Stull. Kathy showed a proof copy of her next and final book, “*Early Life and Traditions of Holland Township – 1916-1923*”.

Oral Histories

Larry LaFevre said that he met with Mr. and Mrs. Hummer today. He plans to meet with Mrs. Hummer tomorrow, May 8th, to copy material related to the history of Bunn Valley and Hoffman Farms. Larry will ask the about an oral history interview at that time. Shirley Wydner mentioned that her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wydner, are agreeable to scheduling an oral history interview.

History Day at HLT Farmers’ Market, Sunday, July 8th

Larry asked commission members if there is any interest in participating in the Farmers' Market History Day at Dvoor Farm on Sunday, July 8th. Joe Becker expressed interest. Larry will follow up with Carl Molter.

2018 NJ Historic Preservation Award – Nomination / Riegel Ridge

Larry sent a copy of the 2018 New Jersey Historic Preservation Awards Nomination – “*Stewardship of Riegel Ridge*” to commission members via email on May 1st, 2018. See correspondence.

Historic Buildings Owned by “Green Acres” – B4 L8.02

Larry spoke about the original Bellis farm on Bellis Road. The farm, specifically the Dragositz parcel, was sold to Green Acres with the exception of an old stone house on one acre. The owners of the house, Mr. and Mrs. George Bonham, are interested in acquiring the wagon house and lot of about half an acre back from the State. This will require the State to offer the lot at public auction and a historic preservation easement. Larry mentioned that Pohatcong Township may be willing to hold the easement for payment. Larry said he met with Jeff Marshall and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Cummings of Delaware Township to learn more about historic easements, as a similar arrangement is being negotiated with the Holcombe house.

Jacob Cole to Nickols Becker 4/4/1889 – B6 L1.03? 177?

Larry showed an old black and white photograph of the Jacob Cole homestead. He and Carl Molter documented a spring house there. However, it is unclear whether or not the spring house is actually on the same lot as the farmhouse, or on the adjacent Township lot. Joe agreed to reach out to Mr. David Tange who once lived on the property. Larry will contact the current homeowner to ask about property lines.

Joe showed a folder of old deeds that included the Nickolas and Helena Stangel Becker homestead (pre-1919) and the Becker family homestead, known as “Mountain Farm”, purchased from the Jacob Cole estate in 1889.

Other Business

- Frank Stull Plaque – Larry asked for sources of biographical information for the plaque. He proposed using text that appears on the introductory page of the new book, “*A Tour of Holland Township – as seen and told by Frank Stull*”.
- Paper Machine, Warren Glen – Larry stated that his phone calls have not been returned to-date.
- Holland School Yearbooks – Larry said they are still in the possession of Police Chief, John Harris.
- Slave Cemetery in Alexandria – Larry reported that he visited the site for two hours, but could not find burials. He plans to return again in the future. Joe spoke about the poor condition of the Filmore Street cemetery in Phillipsburg.
- Cyphers Farm Solar Field Project – Larry stated that the solar project was cancelled some time ago. However, a new application was received from Milford Solar Farm LLC. This company proposes a subdivision of the house and barn on the Cyphers farm, with return of the buildings to Holland Township.
- New Preserved Land Map – Larry showed a new map, *Preserved Farmland and Open Space – Holland Township*, prepared by M. Mason, Hunterdon County Planning Dept. - April 20, 2018.

Show and Tell

- B&W Picture of Harry Taskey Lithograph – Larry.
- “The Heritage of Our Hunterdon County Parks” by Douglas Kiofsky – Joe.

Next Meeting: Monday, July 2nd, at 7:00PM

Meeting Adjourned: 8:00PM