

# Holland Township Historic Preservation Commission Meeting

Monday, August 2, 2021  
Holland Twp. Municipal Building, 7 PM

## Minutes

### **Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM**

Present: Joseph Becker, Lori Bonham, Dan Bush, Larry LaFevre, Beverly Kirby-McDonough, Kathy Sciarello

Excused: Carl Molter, JoAnn Bonham Schaible

Guest: Mary Jane Silva Kirk

*Adequate notice of this meeting was given pursuant to the open public meeting act by the Twp. Clerk on December 10, 2020.*

Minutes of the June 2021 meeting were approved as submitted.

### **Harder Farm**

The Harder Farm is currently for sale. Larry LaFevre reported that the documentation of the house and spring house is finished. When the barn survey is updated, the documentation will be complete. Last week, a gentleman was given a tour of the property. The party expressed an interest in purchasing and preserving the farm and buildings.

### **Old Schools and Helen Hager Behme Papers**

Larry stated that if Ms. Deb Croasdale, teacher at the Holland School, wants a presentation about old schools, then this Commission could use documents from the Helen Hager Behme papers. This could include information about the school bell and superintendent.

Kathy Sciarello sent a letter of thanks, dated June 17, 2021, to Mr. Steve Mason for his contribution of the Helen Hager Behme Papers.

### **Books**

Kathy reported that a shipment of Holland Township books was damaged in transit by FedEx. A claim was filed with Lulu.com Publishing. Replacement books were promptly received and placed in storage at Riegel Ridge. The damaged books were donated locally via social media.

### **Robert Cole / Henry Cole Farmstead**

Beverly Kirby-McDonough said she responded to a query from Mr. Robert Cole of Jackson Heights, Queens, New York. Mr. Cole is searching for the final resting place of his paternal Cole grandparents. He is also researching the Cole, Eckel, Rittenhouse and VanSyckel families. Mr. Cole has ancestral connections to the Henry Cole Farmstead and Bunn Valley. He purchased all seven volumes of "The Early Life and Traditions..." books and plans to visit Holland Township in the Fall. Mr. Cole made a generous donation of \$250 to the Milford Borough Historical Society.

### **John Bloom / Deyzel / Eliades Barn**

Larry stated that he and Carla Cielo spent a full day with Mr. Michael Worthington at the John Bloom house on Old River Road to take samples for dendrochronology. Sampling was difficult due to the poor

condition of some of the timbers. Larry mentioned working for months at the Chris Hager house on Phillips Road. After three full days, the inside is complete. The outside is near completion.

### **Vegh Farm and Nestor Benitez**

Larry said he received a call from Maria Elena Kozak a few months ago. There is a partially collapsed wagon house to be rebuilt. However, the wagon house is too close to the line with no setback. It must be rebuilt on the same foundation. Larry provided some names of good timber framers and carpenters.

Larry showed a couple of 1965 aerial photographs of the Vegh Farm which is located behind the firehouse on Anderson Road.

### **Other Business**

The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Historic Preservation Award – Larry showed a copy of this award for restoration of the Riegel Ridge Community Center. The original will be placed in a new frame for display.

Electricity / Lighting at Riegel Ridge – Dan Bush agreed to follow up with contractors about electricity and lighting in the storage room at Riegel Ridge.

Jack Weiss Photographs – The remainder of the meeting was devoted to review and identification of the Jack Weiss photographs. Mary Jane Silva Kirk graciously helped in this effort. Dan proposed the preparation of a resolution accepting the collection of photographs, with a thank you letter to Jack Weiss.

**Next Meeting: Monday, October 4th, 7:00PM**

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:00PM**