

**HOPE TOWNSHIP
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
JULY 10, 2023 MINUTES**

Hybrid Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Robin Keggan, Secretary at 7:00 pm.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT:

Under the provisions of the “Open Public Meetings Act”, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by publishing notice in the New Jersey Herald and by posting notices in the Hope Post Office and on the Township Bulletin Board.

ROLL CALL: Chris Beatty (at the Municipal Building), Joshua Belverio (Zoomed in at 7:20 p.m.), Kamil Belverio, Melissa Debiak, Gianfranco DiSalvo (Zoomed in at 7:13 p.m.), Verity Fox, Maria McDonough (Zoomed in at 7:13 p.m.), Robert May (Zoom) and Emily Brown (at Municipal Building).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the June 12, 2023 meeting have been distributed to the members prior to the meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Mr. May with a few minor revisions (deleting the sentence that H.O.P.E. had disbanded and Mrs. Brown notating that “Belverio” needed to be corrected in two places), seconded by Chris Beatty. Voice vote taken – All members who were present at the last meeting were in favor. Abstentions: Melissa Debiak.

APPLICATIONS:

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/DISCUSSION:

Sign for Community Center: Further discussion took place regarding the language and the design of the plaque to be installed on the Community Center through a grant that was obtained in the amount of \$500. Mrs. Brown has spoken with Ron Yando from EM Signs in Newton regarding the plaque. She received an estimated cost of \$631-\$800. Mrs. Brown will be visiting their shop in Newton to look at samples and they will be providing the HPC with a mock-up of the plaque for approval. The plaque is to be cast bronze rather than precision tooled metal as there is only a \$50 difference. Mrs. Brown originally stated that the difference between the grant monies received and the cost of the plaque could be paid out of the HPC budget, however, after a discussion initiated by Mr. May, it was decided to ask the Township Committee if the Township would cover the cost of the difference as the Township is the entity that will be receiving the grant monies. The Secretary will email the Township Committee members to ask if that is something they will approve. The sign’s design will match those of the Long House and the Distillery. The verbiage on the sign is as follows:

On this site, the Moravians in 1773, built a log tavern to provide food and lodging for travelers. On his journey from Philadelphia to his headquarters in Newburgh, NY in July of 1782, George Washington dined here with his troop escort and the Moravian Bishop Johannes Ettwein. In 1841, members of a Christian Church obtained the property and built their church on this site, holding their first service in 1844.

Presented by The County of Warren and Hope Township

The “Hope Community Center Circa 1841” and “Presented by The County of Warren and Hope Township” will be in a bigger, bolder type as long as that can be accommodated by EM Signs.

On a motion made by Mrs. Brown and seconded by Mr. May, the HPC approved this language and the material with which the plaque will be constructed from. In a roll call vote, the following members voted “yes” – Mrs. Beatty; Mrs. Debiak; Mr. DiSalvo; Mrs. Fox; Mrs. McDonough; Mr. May and Mrs. Brown. Mr. Josh Belverio abstained as he was not on the meeting call for the beginning of the discussion, but noted he was OK with what the HPC decided as everyone seemed happy with it from the discussion that he heard.

The Secretary will provide this verbiage to the Township Committee at the June 12, 2023 meeting so that they can weigh in with their opinions and/or approval on the verbiage the HPC has decided upon. She will email everyone after that meeting so that they know the outcome and Mrs. Brown may proceed to have the proof done through EM Signs.

Replacement Signs for Historic Homes: Mrs. Brown discussed the replacement of the current signs on homes in the Township. She will be speaking to Mr. Yando about those as well. The HPC members concurred that they all like the clean lines of the rectangular shaped signs versus the signs that are sort of “scrolled”. The costs may vary dependent upon the size and how much verbiage is put on them for each home. Many homeowners have already stated they will pay for their own signs, which will make this project more easily accomplished. Mrs. Brown stated she believes there are approximately 30 signs. They will also be constructed out of bronze so that they will last for years to come. All stops listed in the Walking Tour Brochure will ideally get the updated signs. Mr. DiSalvo recommended that the descriptions for each building listed in the Walking Tour Brochure be checked for accuracy with Mio French and the HHS. The signs will be approved one-by-one.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. McDonough made the HPC members aware of a forthcoming application pertaining to two homes next to First Hope Bank in the center of town. She stated that the applicants have submitted an offer to purchase the homes and that, if all goes through, they wish to restore the stone home and demolish the wooden home in order to make it a lawn and parking area. Mrs. Brown noted that the HPC can make no firm decisions on applications before the HPC unless they have taken title/closed on the homes, however, she does understand that the potential buyers might like to hear the HPC members' sentiments on the potential for the demolition of this home. If an application is submitted in time for the August meeting, they may appear and discuss their plan with the HPC, who may offer opinions on what they think of the project, but no firm decision will be made. Mr. May stated that he would like to see an engineer's report regarding the house that is potentially unsavable. It was also noted that at one time, this home had the opportunity to be offered to the Township or the Historic Society, but that never came to fruition.

Mrs. Debiak asked what she needed to do in order to take a tree down in her yard. The Secretary asked several questions regarding the location of the tree as it pertains to the right-of-ways in town, etc. The tree is on her property. There is nothing she needs to do through the town, however, Mr. May mentioned that she would need to make application through the HPC for this. It was noted that she should begin the process of removing the tree, but just submit the application so that it is done correctly.

No correspondence was received by the secretary. No applications are at deadline.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business before the commission, a motion was made by Mrs. Brown, seconded by Mr. May to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Robin L. Keggan, Secretary