

**HOPE TOWNSHIP
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
AUGUST 14, 2023, MINUTES**

Hybrid Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Robin Keggan, Secretary, at 7:02 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: Joshua Belverio, Kamil Belverio, Gianfranco DiSalvo, Melissa Debiak, Verity Fox, Robert May and Emily Brown.

Absent were Chris Beatty and Maria McDonough.

Members of the public in attendance: Charlie Iulo.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the July 10, 2023, meeting have been distributed to the members prior to the meeting. Emily Brown made a motion to approve the minutes with minor grammatical and roll call corrections, seconded by Robert May. Voice vote taken – All in favor.

APPLICATIONS:

23-02 CONNOR GIEGER, BLOCK 2500, LOT 400 – 322 HIGH STREET

An application was submitted for this property requesting the Historic Preservation Commission to approve the removal of one of the chimneys above the roofline on the east side of the house due to a water leak damaging the house. Photos of the house were included with the application along with the applicant’s description of the project. Mr. May pointed out how that would affect the symmetry of the home and made mention of the fact that he, too, had a similar issue at the house he is rehabilitating at 6 Walnut. He ended up wrapping the affected area with a tarp until the repairs could be made. A question arose as to whether any repair estimates had been obtained by the applicant as none were attached to the application. It was noted that once the chimney is removed, it will likely never be replaced in future years.

Joshua Belverio made a motion to **deny** Application No. 23-02, seconded by Verity Fox, with the additional comment that the Historic Preservation Commission strongly suggests that this chimney be repaired in or to maintain the historic integrity of the property. Roll Call Vote on the motion to **DENY** the application: Joshua Belverio – yes; Kamil Belverio – yes; Gianfranco DiSalvo – yes; Melissa Debiak – yes; Robert May – yes; Verity Fox – yes and Emily Brown - yes.

The applicant will be sent a letter from the Historic Preservation Commission and invited to the next meeting should he have any further questions or concerns regarding his application. A copy of the denial letter will be given to the Hope Township Zoning Officer and the Construction Department.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A brief conversation was had regarding a discussion held at the July 10, 2023, Historic Preservation Commission meeting relating to two homes in the center of town that were for sale. It was brought to the Commission's attention that one of the homes was potentially being demolished. At the July meeting, the Commission stated that they wanted engineer reports to study pertaining to the integrity of the house that was potentially being demolished before any decision would be made by them. Since then, the real estate transaction surrounding the two houses has fallen through, and the homes are now off the market. It was noted that should the two homes return to the market for sale, the real estate agent should make mention of the fact that any changes to those properties externally will need to be brought before the Historic Preservation Commission.

NEW BUSINESS:

Charlie Iulo was in attendance to discuss his potential purchase of 347 High Street (Block 2100, Lot 300). He inquired of the Commission what they would look for from him if he were to purchase the home as far as historic renovations, etc. A discussion took place regarding paint colors and it was suggested that he visit a paint store and look at the historic color palette that many of the stores offer. Any paint color change will need to be approved by the Commission. It was also noted that any external changes/renovations/demolition would need to be approved by the Commission as well, i.e., the removal of the bay window in front of the home. Also discussed was a "bump out" added onto the back of the home and its relevancy to the structure. Mr. May suggested that Mr. Iulo reach out to Mio French of H.O.P.E. to see if he can find out any further information surrounding the history of the structure. Mrs. Brown provided him with information that she found at the Hope Museum. The Historic Preservation Commission added that they truly appreciated him coming to the meeting to discuss these items before making a commitment to purchase the property so that he is aware of what will be required from him. Mrs. Brown also gave Mr. Iulo copies of the applications of prior projects that were in the Historic Preservation Commission file for this home.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business before the Commission, a motion was made by Joshua Belverio, seconded by Mr. May and all in favor by voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Robin L. Keggan, Secretary