

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**  
**ZOOM MEETING**  
**7:30**  
**JANUARY 26, 2021**  
**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by Interim Chair Butch at 7:35 PM.

Roll Call:

Attendees: Commissioner Butch, Commissioner Kelty, Commissioner Onitiri, Commissioner Blackwell, Commissioner Conoscenti, Township Committeeman Morris, *Liaison*

Absent: Commissioner Costagiola, Commissioner Petry, Commissioner Carr

Guest: Doreen Polhemus, Township Historian

The minutes of the November 24, 2020 were adopted by a unanimous vote. Motion was made by Commissioner Blackwell and seconded by Commissioner Butch. All approved.

Members were congratulated on their appointments and reappointments; Commissioner Diane Blackwell, Class C member, 4 year term, ending December 31, 2024; Commissioner Jolene Conoscenti, Alternate I member, 2 year term ending December 31, 2022; Doreen Polhemus, Resolution 21-26, Local Historian, 1 year term ending December 31, 2021; and Doreen Polhemus, Steward to the Clarksburg Cultural Center, 1 year term ending December 31, 2021.

Meeting Calendar was discussed. Members discussed potential nights for the meeting since some members have a conflict with the fourth Tuesday of the Month. The best nights for the meeting among the members in attendance are the third Thursday or the fourth Wednesday, in that order. Commissioner Butch will poll the members absent and set the Meeting Calendar accordingly.

**Committee Reports:**

“Little Africa”—Commissioner Onitiri will reach out to members of the church.

Interview—Doreen Polhemus reported she has an interview scheduled with Ron Trust, veteran of the Millstone Township First Aid Squad Wednesday night, January 27<sup>th</sup>; and another interview scheduled with Mrs. Haddah, focusing on the history of the Jewish Center and Perrineville next week.

Scenic By Ways—Commissioner Butch will send the Scenic By Ways, Site Map to all members.

Education—No report

**Old Business:**

- Monmouth County Historic Commission, Preservation Grant, *Baird Homestead Front Porch Restoration, Phase 1*—no report
- Time Capsule—Doreen Polhemus reported the time capsule was buried on December 11, 2020 at Millstone Park to be opened in 2094.
- Educational Opportunities—Preservation New Jersey, Preserving New Jersey Historic Resources: The New Jersey Historic Trust Grant Program, Wednesday, January 27, 2021 2PM via zoom; and The Historic Property Reinvestment Act, A conversation with Tim Sullivan, CEO, New Jersey Economic Development Authority, February 18, 2021 10AM. Doreen Polhemus also reported two upcoming programs. She will send information.

- Equipment purchase—Doreen Polhemus reported purchases were completed for video and taping equipment

### **New Business:**

- New Jersey Historic Trust, Preserve New Jersey grant program, Heritage Tourism Grant. The grant is due April 29, 2021 4PM. 3:1 match, up to \$40,000. The commission discussed potential projects, “Little Africa” and the British and Colonialist routes through Millstone Township to the Battle of Monmouth. The consensus of the group is preference for the “Little Africa” project. Commissioners Onitiri and Butch will attend the workshop to learn more about the grant and report back to the group.
- Township Committeeman Morris offered his assistance to aid the group to increase our social media presence within the community. He also offered to help us recruit volunteers to accomplish our goals.
- The Historic Preservation Commission set goals for 2021 as follows:
  - To look into grant opportunities.
  - To investigate, document, collect and/or copy photos of “Little Africa”.
  - To provide two articles for inclusion in newsletters.
  - To collect four historical interviews of Millstone residents using a variety of media forms and techniques.
  - To revisit and complete work started on the Scenic By-Ways.
  - To plan at least two educational programs and recruit guest speakers (potentially, zoom format) .
  - To attend as a council, ten hours of training and/or education.
  - To complete four wayside signs to be installed by DPW.
  - To increase our social media platform.
- The Historic Preservation Commission listed the 2020 Accomplishments:
  - Held six meetings, two at the Clarksburg Cultural Center and four zoom.
  - Assisted in the completion of the Monmouth County Historical Commission, Preservation Grant, Clarksburg Methodist Episcopal Church, *Front Door Restoration Project*.
  - Assisted in preparation of the Monmouth County Historical Commission, Preservation Grant application, *Baird Homestead Front Porch Restoration, Phase 1*
  - All programs planned in 2020 were cancelled due to Covid 19 restrictions.
- The budget was submitted by Deputy Mayor Nancy Grbelja in the requested amount of \$6050.00.
- Trails that Build a Nation program was briefly discussed. Commissioner Butch will share with Commissioner Petry. Further discussion next meeting.
- The Commission discussed the need for support staff from the Township. Township Committeeman Morris will bring our concerns to the Township Committee.

Having no further business Commissioner Kelty moved to adjourn at 8:38. Commissioner Onitiri seconded and all approved.