

MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
IN-PERSON AND ZOOM MEETING

7:30

December 15, 2022

Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

- This meeting was called to order by Interim Chair Butch at 8:20

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

- Attendees: Commissioner Butch, Commissioner Onitiri, Commissioner Ragosa
- Absent: Commissioner Costagliola, Commissioner Carr, Commissioner Blackwell
- Guest in Attendance: N/A

CORRESPONDENCE

- N/A

APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES

- N/A

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. NJ Heritage Tourism Grant
 - a. Stakeholders Meeting: October 6 at 1pm at the Allen Barn at Baird Homestead
 - i. Attendees:
 1. Attendees from HPC: Commissioner Butch, Commissioner Onitiri, Doreen Polhemus
 2. Attendees from Hunter Research, Inc: Patrick Harshbarger, Rachel Craft, Grace Ragosa
 - a. For this grant, Commissioner Ragosa will be working with Hunter Research on their side
 3. Other Attendees: Nancy Grbelja, Muriel J. Smith, Gail Hunton, Pat Donahue, Joe Grabas, Kristen Hohn, John Fabiano, Debbie Thomas, Linda Wilson, Ashley Parker, "Cookie" Cheryl Cook

- ii. Goal of meeting was to see how Hunter Research could enhance our programming and develop programming that is accurate and feasible
- iii. People gave their personal stories about the culture and history of Millstone and the surrounding community
- iv. Millstone is more of a political boundary
- v. Millstone is thought to have some Underground Railroad routes that HRI will explore
- vi. Want to make the history of a strong agricultural society relevant to the current new and more developed generation of Millstone
- b. Stakeholders Meeting: October 6 at 6pm at St. James A.M.E Church
 - i. Attendees:
 - 1. Attendees from HPC: Commissioner Butch, Commissioner Onitiro
 - 2. Attendees from HRI: Patrick Harshbarger, Rachel Craft and Grace Ragosa
 - 3. Attendees from Woodville Community: Arlene Fitzpatrick Conover
 - 4. Got hands on book by Arlene Fitzpatrick Conover
 - ii. Ms. Fitzpatrick Conover shared oral history of the church and its founding members. She also shared what the Woodville community was like and how it was started
 - iii. HRI will search for the will that Catherine Conover's enslaver had where he gives her money after his passing
- c. Zoom Meeting with John Fabiano: October 21
 - i. Discussed history of taverns in Millstone and the notable people who visited them
 - ii. Discussed Revolutionary War history and the role Millstone played in it
 - 1. Possibly could do a play or skit about an inn that housed both Colonial and British forces
- d. In-person Meeting with Muriel J. Smith: October 21
 - i. Discussed plans going forth with chapter books and tried to answer some important questions.
 - 1. How do we pick a publisher?
 - 2. How long should they be?
 - ii. Discussed ideas for the 3 different stories we want to highlight
 - 1. Elizabeth Conover
 - 2. Windmill
 - a. HPC is trying to get a working model of a windmill to go with the story
- e. In-person Meeting with Bob Craig: October 26

- i. Discussed the road networks through Millstone and the major thoroughfares
 - 1. Rising Sun Road and Agress Road were major routes
 - ii. Ely family owned most of land in this region and made a blockage of New York influence
 - 1. Craig believed that Millstone was the place where the Ely's wanted New York influence to stop progressing south
 - a. He believes this is why South Jersey progressed later in time
 - f. In-person Meeting with Alice Wikoff: October 28 at Allentown Library
 - i. Provided HRI and HPC with various different resources to aid in the research process
 - g. Zoom Meeting with Dr. Huss: November
 - i. Discussed HPC's renewed commitment with Millstone Schools and programming
 - 1. 6th grade field day at Baird Homestead
 - 2. Possible connection with Baird Homestead Greenhouse and the Middle School
 - 3. Ideas for future programming
 - h. Meeting with Linda Wilson that got postponed
 - i. Muriel J. Smith to come visit our sites
 - i. She wants to create 3 stories
 - 1. Elizabeth Conover
 - a. Need to select the picture
 - 2. Windmill story
 - a. Dick Van Zandt is trying to build a working model of the windmill to be used in the future
 - i. Will be donated to us
 - 3. Unidentified third story
 - j. Met with Mrs. Golizio on December 9
 - k. HPC will meet soon with HRI to review the first draft to the plan
2. Historic Scenic By-ways
 - a. N/A
3. Interviews
 - a. N/A
4. Education
 - a. N/A

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Things to be followed up on:

- a. Meeting with Linda Wilson
 - b. Meeting with Alice Wikoff
 - c. Phone call with Cappy Stultz
2. HPC will try to get in touch with members from St. James A.M.E. Church to find more information about their history, community and Church income
 - a. What can HPC do to help?
 - b. HRI will take pictures of existing headstones at the Church
 - c. Want to find pictures from the A.M.E. Church

NEW BUSINESS

1. Obtained 2 new books for our research
 - a. Written by Hightstown native and included information on Patience Tract and western portions of Millstone
 - b. Re-published now, but information goes back to mid to late 1800's about life in New Jersey
2. How to prepare for emergency
 - a. Need to do it for grant
3. 250th Birthday of America in 2026
 - a. What would we like to do with the public?
4. HPC will plan to make a presentation in municipal building for the co-op property
 - a. There is a tannery foundation on that property
 - i. HPC wants to preserve that tannery in some way
 - b. Next meeting: HPC will discuss what we could say in our presentation and why the township might need to do a study on the property before they begin building

5. Friends of Millstone Township Historic Registered Properties received a grant for utility fees for the Baird Homestead

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- January 4: Reorg meeting for the Township
 - HPC will need to wait to see who gets re-appointed
- Commissioner Ragosa will put together a Facebook page for the HPC to announce upcoming events and information

MOTION TO ADJOURN

- Having no further business, Commissioner Onitiri moved to adjourn at 9:08 PM. Commissioner Butch second that motion in which the meeting was concluded.

NEXT MEETING

- January 19, 2023

Meeting Minutes taken by Historic Preservation Commission's Secretary, Grace A. Ragosa