

Historic Preservation Commission
Monthly Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2021

- Call to Order

Pat Fisher-Olsen called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm. She announced that all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act have been met, and that this meeting had been duly advertised. The meeting was held via Webex.

- Roll Call

In attendance were Commissioners Pat Fisher-Olsen, Alan Harwick, Erin Brennan, Jim Carden, Dana Maurer, Chuck Waters, John Woodward and Alternate Commissioner Stephen Nees. Alternate Commissioner Herb Fischer was absent.

- Historic Preservation Commission Design Reviews

Whitehouse Station Historic District

BL 32 L3
126 Main Street
Whitehouse Station, NJ
Applicant: Marc Silverman
Review: Above-Ground Pool and Fence Installation

The application relates to the installation of an above-ground pool at the rear of the premises. A 6' white vinyl solid paneled fence will also be installed, surrounding the rear of the premises. The pool will not be visible from the street. The Commissioners discussed the application.

Motion by Alan Harwick to approve the application as submitted. Stephen Nees seconded the motion. Approved by vote of P. Fisher-Olsen, A. Harwick, E. Brennan J. Carden, D. Maurer, S, Nees, and C. Waters. J. Woodward recused himself due to proximity.

BL 30 L1
160 Main Street
Whitehouse Station, NJ
Applicant: Luis Quintana
Review: New ExxonMobil Signage

The application, tabled from the December 8, 2020 and January 12, 2021 meetings, relates to new, vibrant signage and other architectural elements to the pumps. The Commissioners discussed the application.

The requested signage is in keeping with ExxonMobil's current "wave" branding; however, the Commissioners agreed that the signage was out of proportion to a gas station in the center of the village historic district, on a two-lane road having a 25mph speed limit. The signage is more suited for a busy highway.

Chairperson Fisher-Olsen requested that Mr. Quintana ask ExxonMobil to provide examples of what they had done in other, similar village historic districts.

Plate 14 – Sites of Historic Interest

Whitehouse-Mechanicsville Historic District

BL 8 L14
Historic Wycoff-Stryker Building
416 US Highway 22
Whitehouse Station NJ
Applicant: Maria Onofre
Review: New Signage

The application relates to the replacement of the signage on the premises. The existing frames will be used. Only the sign content will change. The Commissioners discussed the application.

Motion by Erin Brennan to approve the application as submitted. Alan Harwick seconded the motion. Approved by vote of P. Fisher-Olsen, A. Harwick, E. Brennan J. Carden, D. Maurer, C. Waters and J. Woodward.

Whitehouse-Mechanicsville Historic District

BL 13 L35
27 Old Highway 28
Whitehouse, NJ
Applicant: Bayron Mendez & Merari Castanon
Review: Roof replacement, chimney removal, window replacement, replacement of basement and mudroom entrances.

The application relates to the following:

1. Replacement of the asbestos shingled roofs on the house and the garage with charcoal grey Timberline architectural shingles.
2. Removal of the furnace chimney. The new high-efficiency heating system will be vented elsewhere.
3. Replacement of windows as needed with replacement windows in the same style as the original windows.
4. Demolition of the existing basement entrance and installation of a 6-panel traditional door.
5. Replace the mudroom door with a 6-panel traditional door.
6. Repaving the driveway with Belgian block.
7. Installation of a chain link fence and gate in the rear of the premises.
8. Resurfacing the existing foundation of the house with faux stone.

The Commissioners agreed with all of the applicant's plans except for the resurfacing of the foundation. They explained to the applicant that the goal of preservation is to keep the structure as it was meant to be and not to make it something else. They suggested that landscaping be used to cover the foundation.

Motion by Jim Carden to approve the application as submitted with the exception of the resurfacing of the foundation with faux stone. John Woodward seconded the motion. Approved by vote of P. Fisher-Olsen, A. Harwick, E. Brennan J. Carden, D. Maurer, C. Waters and J. Woodward.

- *Minutes.* The commissioners reviewed the draft minutes from the December 8 10, 2020 meeting. Alan Harwick moved that the minutes be approved as submitted. Jim Carden seconded the motion. All were in favor. D. Maurer recused herself.
- *Other Business.*

Jim Carden noted that several trees were cut down in the Whitehouse-Mechanicsville Historic District. Chairperson Fisher-Olsen replied that the zoning officer is aware of the issue.

Alan Harwick advised that the Mt Amwell Project has requested the Township to take over the Hankinson-Voorhees graveyard on Woodschurch Road. He will provide the commissioners with the information.

- *Adjourn.*

Alan Harwick made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Erin Brennan seconded the motion. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Erin Brennan.