

Historic Preservation Commission  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
July 13, 2021

- **Call to Order**

Pat Fisher-Olsen called the meeting to order at 7:31 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, Dana Maurer, Chuck Waters, Jim Carden, John Woodward, and Township Committee Liaison Betty Ann Fort. Alternate Commissioners Stephen Nees and Herb Fischer were absent.

- **Historic Preservation Commission Design Reviews**

*Whitehouse-Mechanicsville Historic District*

BL 18 L19  
58 Old Highway 28  
Whitehouse, NJ 08888  
Applicant: Ira Sumkin  
Architect: Joseph Solfaro  
Review: Historic House (ca 1780) Addition and Renovation.

The application relates to a two story addition to the rear of the historic structure. The Commissioners discussed the application. Vice-Chair Harwick recused himself due to proximity.

The commissioners expressed the following concerns:

1. Complete architectural drawings of the new addition were not provided.
2. The new addition would cover up the existing historic windows, resulting in a blank wall, which is contrary to the Historic Preservation Ordinance.
3. The front door should be in character with the style of the house—no side lights.

The Applicant agreed to return to the Commission with complete drawings.

BL 18 L9  
54 Old Highway 28  
Whitehouse, NJ 08888  
Applicant: Brian & Ruth Bannon  
Review: New Porch

The application relates to the replacement of the existing front porch with a larger, hip-roofed, 32' x 8' porch extending the full length of the house, as well as replacement of

the existing aluminum siding. The Commissioners discussed the application. Vice-Chair Harwick recused himself due to proximity.

Commissioner Maurer expressed concern about the open areas between the footings. The applicant assured her that the open areas would be covered in latticework.

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

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BL 13 L45  
97 Old Highway 28  
Whitehouse, NJ 08888  
Applicant: Jason Pflugh  
Review: Landscaping Around Ground-Mounted Solar Panels

The applicant returned to the Commission with a landscape plan to shield the ground-mounted solar panels approved by the Commission on May 11, 2021. The Commissioners discussed the application.

The Commissioners agreed that the plan submitted went far to screen the area in accordance with the ordinance. Township Committee Liaison Fort suggested adding more evergreens so that the screening would not lose its effectiveness in the winter months.

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

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- **Minutes.** The commissioners reviewed the draft minutes from the June 8, 2021 meeting. Alan Harwick moved that the minutes be approved as amended. Chuck Waters seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- **Other Business.**
  - *Historic Preservation Month.* The presentation of the award to the Mount Amwell Project will take place on July 14 at 5:00 p.m. at Haypress Cemetery or at the Municipal Building in case of inclement weather.
  - *Design Review Application Changes.* Chairperson Fisher-Olsen will submit a draft of the new application to the Commissioners for review.
  - *Historic Preservation Commission Bench.* The grey bench will be placed between 57 and 61 Old Highway 28 in the Whitehouse-Mechanicsville Historic District. Township Committee Liaison Fort will check with Juergen Huelsebusch as to its placement.

- *Historic Bridge Trail.* Chairperson Fisher-Olsen advised the Commissioners of the planning of an historic bridge trail highlighting 6 historic bridges in Hunterdon County, including the bridge at Stanton Station in Readington Township. She will provide more information once received.
- *Bouman-Stickney Farmstead Porch.* Commissioner Waters advised that the porch needs bracing and asked for helpers to do the job.
- **Adjourn.** Alan Harwick made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chuck Waters seconded the motion. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Erin Brennan