

Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2023

- **Call to Order**

Pat Fisher-Olsen called the meeting to order at 7:30 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 at the Readington Township Municipal Building.

- **Roll Call**

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

- **Historic Preservation Commission Design Reviews**

Whitehouse-Mechanicsville Historic District

BL 18 L 9

Contractor: Sunpower Corp.

Review: Solar installation

Commissioner Harwick recused himself due to proximity and left the room.

The application relates to the installation of a flush roof-mounted solar system consisting of 2 sets of 14 panels all located in the rear of the building and not visible from the street. The applicant further noted that no trees would be removed from the site.

Commissioner John asked where the load center would be located. The applicant pointed out the location on the driveway side of the house. She recommended the planting of additional shrubbery to screen the load center from the road.

Motion made by Jim Carden to approve the application as submitted, with the with the addition of landscape buffering similar in type and size, as shown in the 2016 Google Earth photo submitted to the Commission, to be planted to shield the meter and shut off unit from the street. Erin Brennan seconded the motion. Motion approved by: Pat Fisher-Olsen, Erin Brennan, Jim Carden, Sarah John, Steve Nees and Chuck Waters.

Bl 18 L 10

Contractor: DoCabo Designs, LLC

Review: Fence

The application relates to the installation of a perimeter fence around the property, namely a National Fence Systems, Inc. Classic Vinyl Fence® in the Bonneville style. The fence will consist of a 4 foot high fence, 360 linear feet commencing along the front of the property, set

back 30 feet from the roadway, to one foot from the property line, then continue down the property line to the rear of the house where it will transition to a 6 foot high fence where it will continue along the rear of the property, enclosing the back yard. A 4 foot x 8 foot white vinyl gate will be installed at the left corner of the front fence.

Motion made by Alan Harwick to approve the application as submitted. Chuck Waters seconded the motion. Motion approved by: Pat Fisher-Olsen, Alan Harwick, Erin Brennan, Jim Carden, Sarah John, Steve Nees and Chuck Waters.

Plate 14 – Sites of Historic Interest

BI 12 L 12

Applicant: Three Little Birds Renovations, LLC

Contractor: Harrington Construction

Review: Garage Demolition

The applicant returned to the Commission with photographs and drawings requested by the Commission at the December 13, 2022 meeting. The commissioners reviewed the documentation.

The applicant noted that the historic corncrib would not be demolished.

Commissioner Nees asked about the holes in the floor depicted in the interior photos. The applicant noted that they were “garage pits” for working underneath vehicles.

Motion made by Alan Harwick to approve the application as submitted, provided that the historic corncrib, as shown in the photos, remain and be maintained. Steve Nees seconded the motion. Motion approved by: Pat Fisher-Olsen, Alan Harwick, Erin Brennan, Jim Carden, Sarah John, Steve Nees and Chuck Waters.

Three Bridges Historic District

BI 89 L 5

Contractor: TFI Pools

Review: Above Ground Pool

The application relates to the installation of a 15 foot, 54 inch deep Cachet model above ground swimming pool to be located at the rear of the property outside of the fencing reviewed and approved by the Commission on September 13, 2022. The swimming pool will have a self-latching safety system.

Motion made by Steve Nees to approve the application as submitted. Alan Harwick seconded the motion. Motion approved by: Pat Fisher-Olsen, Alan Harwick, Erin Brennan, Jim Carden, Sarah John, Steve Nees and Chuck Waters.

- **Minutes.**

January 9, 2023. Tabled to March meeting.

- **Other Business.**

- **Local District Signage:** The signs are in the possession of DPW. They will set them in concrete at the approved locations. Commissioner Nees will verify the locations with the Construction Code Office and the Police Department.
 - **Historic District Packet:** Chair Fisher-Olsen will contact the Construction Code Office regarding the distribution of information packet being distributed to new residents of the historic districts.
 - **Bouman-Stickney Farmstead Porch:** Chair Fisher-Olsen advised the Commission that the Museum Director, Margaret Smith, had requested the Commission for a letter in support of the Museums' application for an Open Space Trust Grant. The Museums are applying for a grant in the amount of \$175,000 to be used to rebuild the screened porch.
 - **Darts Mill:** Township Committee member Jonathan Heller appeared before the Commission to request the Commission's help to provide the documentation required by the State Historic Preservation Office.
 - **Budget Meeting:** Chair Fisher-Olsen informed the commissioners that she will be attending the Township's budget meeting to request funding for an assessment report on Taylor's Mill.
 - **Certified Local Government:** The Commission reviewed and discussed the requirements to become a Certified Local Government under the State Historic Preservation Office. Chair Fisher-Olsen requested the commissioners to review the requirements and advise the Commission's actions needed to meet them.
- **Adjourn.** Erin Brennan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alan Harwick seconded the motion. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Erin Brennan