

Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2023

- **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 at the Readington Township Municipal Building.

- **Roll Call**

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

- **Historic Preservation Commission Design Reviews**

Whitehouse-Mechanicsville Historic District

BI 13 L 45

Review: Fencing

The application relates to the construction of fencing at the sides and rear of the property as required by zoning regulations. The installation of the fence will consist of two fencing materials. The fencing along the sides of the property will be a 6' Glenshire White Vinyl Lattice Top Fence; this fencing will also be used across the tenant's rear yard to provide additional privacy. The fence across the rear and partially up the sides will be a 5' Wild Hog Black Metal Stair Panel fence that will allow for the viewshed of the rear of the property. Three single-latched gates are to be installed as set forth in the plans presented to the Commission.

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

Potterstown Historic District

BI 2 L 6

Review: Generator

The application relates to the installation of a 22KW Generac Residential Standby Generator in a garden bed at the rear of the property. The generator will not be visible from the road.

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

Pleasant Run Historic Corridor

BI 64 L 6

Review: Pool, Patio and Fence

The application relates to Phase I landscape plans for the property, including the installation of (i) an 18' x 36' inground vinyl swimming pool located to the right rear of the house; (ii) stamped concrete pool surround, walkways and everyday patio; (iii) a boulder wall located to the left of the pool; (iv) stone steps to connect the everyday patio and the pool area; (v) a twelve-inch yard drain to prevent puddling in the low area; (vi) a 54" black aluminum fence with three single-latching gates; and (vii) pool filter equipment at the right rear of the fenced area. The commissioners discussed the application.

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

BI 52.01 L 17

Review: Addition

Chair Fisher-Olsen recused herself as she serves on a board with the architect and left the room. Vice-Chair Harwick led the discussion.

The applicant returned to the Commission with revised drawings, reflecting the Commission's recommendations made during the April 11th meeting. The revised drawings depicted a tower that was much less overpowering and more compatible with the Historic Corridor. On the south façade, two windows and trim will be added to recreate the look of the general store. On the east façade, the second-floor balustrade will be removed, and a pent roof added over the door. In addition, the existing terrace on the north side of the property will be moved slightly as depicted in the plans.

Motion made by Jim Carden to approve the proposal as set forth in the revised architectural drawings dated May 3, 2023, and presented to the Commission. Sarah John seconded the motion. Motion approved by: Alan Harwick, Erin Brennan, Jim Carden, and Sarah John.

- **Minutes.**

April 11, 2023. Motion to approve as amended by Sarah John and seconded by Jim Carden. All were in favor.

- **Other Business.**
 - **Local District Signage:** In process.
 - **Images of America Books:** Chair Fisher-Olsen noted that only 1 ½ boxes of books are left, which is insufficient for the number of houses bought and sold in the township historic districts. The Commission will consider developing a brochure on the historic districts.
 - **BI 36 L 98, Plate 14 – Sites of Historic Interest:** The owners of this property approached the Commission for advice and recommendations on renovations to an existing barn on this historic property. The owners would like to build an enclosed lean-to for the storage of vintage automobiles. The commissioners discussed the application process with the owners and advised that any modern addition should be sympathetic but not identical to the original structure. The original structure must be discernable from the newer renovations.
- **Adjourn.** Alan Harwick made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sarah John seconded the motion. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Erin Brennan