

Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 9, 2024

- **Call to Order**

Pat Fisher-Olsen called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. 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, Sarah John, Steve Nees, and Alternate Commissioner Scott Barton. Commissioners Jim Carden and Chuck Waters and Alternate Commissioner Marie Almer were absent.

- **Historic Preservation Commission Design Reviews**

Whitehouse-Mechanicsville Historic District

BI 17 L 8

Review: Door Removal

The application relates to the removal and filling in of the following doors:

- Front Elevation: Two double doors right of the bank of windows; double doors located on the large expanse of the right side of the front elevation
- Left Side Elevation: Three single doors--Remove one of the double doors, leaving a single one between the two double loading dock doors.
- Remove the two single doors located to the left of the loading dock – see drawings for exact location
- Rear Elevation: One Double Door located on the rear elevation
- Right Side Elevation: Four single doors as indicated on the drawings provided to the Commission

All closed-door openings will be finished in stucco to match the walls so the former doors will not be ghosted. The color will be the same Paint Color, Ancient Ivory BWC 16.

In addition, the applicant presented plans to install an aluminum two part gate system to prevent trucks from idling in the driveway. The commissioners requested that the gates be in black or dark bronze with silver reflectors rather than red. Alternate Commissioner Barton asked about the gate's operation during a power failure. The gates will have a manual override so they will be operational during a power failure.

Motion made by Alan Harwick to approve the application as amended to include the gate system. Sarah John seconded the motion. Motion approved by: Pat Fisher-Olsen, Alan Harwick, Erin Brennan, Sarah John, Steve Nees and Scott Barton.

BI 19.01/10.01

Review: Fence Replacement

The application relates to the replacement of the existing fence in the back of the property with a white vinyl fence starting and ending at the rear deck. The new fence components will consist of 6 foot panels at the rear of the property with 4 foot panels on each side. In addition a 4' x 4' gate will be installed on each side of the house near the deck. The commissioners discussed the application.

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

Whitehouse Station Historic District

BI 32 L 8

Review: Outdoor Fence, Walkway, Retaining Wall and Mural

The application relates to (i) the extension of the retaining wall along Main Street with engineered block to connect the two existing retaining walls; (ii) the replacement of the picket fence that currently extends northward from the structure with a six foot high vinyl privacy fence that will continue eastward along the property line and then separate the yard from the parking lot; (iii) installation of a grey paver walkway commencing from the rear of the structure and continuing along the north side; (iv) improvement of landscaping as agreed with the Township Arborist; and (v) the addition of a 15' x 15' mural depicting "The Allegory of Commerce and Agriculture of Costa Rica" on the south (Whitehouse Avenue) side of the building . The commissioners discussed the application.

To the commissioners' question regarding the proposed outdoor dining in the yard behind the fence, the applicant stated that the existing yard will be regraded to enable the placement of picnic tables. There will be no additional impervious cover.

Chair Fisher-Olsen noted that she would have to seek advice from legal counsel regarding the mural. That portion of the application would have to be tabled to a later meeting.

Motion made by Alan Harwick to approve the application as submitted with respect to the retaining wall, fence installation, paver installation, and landscape improvement. Steve Nees seconded the motion. Motion approved by: Pat Fisher-Olsen, Alan Harwick, Erin Brennan, Sarah John, Steve Nees and Scott Barton. The mural will be decided at a future meeting.

- **Minutes**

- *March 12, 2024*: Motion to approve the minutes made by Sarah John and seconded by Alan Harwick. All were in favor.

- **Other Business.**
 - *Taylor's Mill:* Chair Fisher-Olsen described the recent earthquake damage to the mill. She further advised that she is working on an emergency stabilization grant. In addition, a quote for repointing along the front and the repair of the earthquake damage has been received. The New Jersey Historic Trust will be reviewing the \$48 thousand grant for the preservation plan this week.
- **Adjourn.** Sarah John made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Erin Brennan seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Erin Brennan.