

Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2024

- **Call to Order**

Pat Fisher-Olsen called the meeting to order at 7:33 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, Erin Brennan, Jim Carden, Sarah John, Steve Nees, Chuck Waters, and Alternate Commissioners Marie Almer and Scott Barton. Commissioner Alan Harwick was absent.

- **Historic Preservation Commission Design Reviews**

Three Bridges District

BI 90 L 9

Review: Fence Replacement

The application relates to the removal of the existing 4' high picket fence and the installation of a 6' high cedar plank dog-eared fence. The fence will follow the existing fence line, but will move to the property line on the north side. A 4' wide gate will be installed to the left of the house along the 36' length of the fence. The commissioners discussed the application.

Motion made by Jim Carden to approve the application as submitted. Scott Barton seconded the motion. Motion approved by: Pat Fisher-Olsen, Jim Carden, Sarah John, Steve Nees, Chuck Waters, Marie Almer and Scott Barton. Commissioner Brennan recused herself due to proximity.

Whitehouse-Mechanicsville District

BI 18 L 11

Review: Retaining Wall

The application relates to the erection of a new 35" high retaining wall of engineered stone along the front of the property. The wall will run 31 feet in an easterly direction commencing at the existing left light post and will run 75 feet in a westerly direction commencing from the existing right light post. The commissioners discussed the application.

Chair Fisher-Olsen brought up the old-growth trees that had been removed without a permit. The applicant disputed this, asserting that he did have a permit to remove the trees. Chair Fisher-Olsen emphasized the importance of the trees along Old Highway because they are emblematic of the district. She indicated that any wall would have to be installed beyond the

drip line of the two remaining old growth trees so as not to interfere with the root systems. She also noted that the type of engineered stone chosen was not compatible with the look of the historic district. Commissioner Carden asked the applicant to consider green alternatives, such as stacked stone, shrubs or ground cover.

Chair Fisher-Olsen will verify the issuance of a permit for the completed tree removal. The applicant will return to the Commission with a site plan showing the existing trees and the exact position of the wall.

- **Minutes**

- *August 13, 2024*: Motion to approve the minutes as amended made by Sarah John and seconded by Jim Carden. All were in favor.

- **Other Business.** None.

- **Public Comment.** None.

- **Adjourn.** Erin Brennan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jim Carden seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Erin Brennan.