

FREEHOLD TWP. HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES-FEB. 20, 2023

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:05pm

ROLL CALL: Cheryl Polverino, David Sieme, Neil Gargiulo, Kevin Marshall, Meg Thomann, Todd Caissie—Absent Maureen Fasano, Stephen Downey, Michael Berman

Minutes were approved-by Kevin Marshall and David Sieme

Correspondence—MCHC grant was approved by The County of Monmouth for \$6,500.00. This is less than the 10,000.00 we had asked for. This is a matching grant so the Twp. Is required to give \$6,500.00 as well. The price for the project at Georgia Road Schoolhouse is \$29,000.00plus and the Township CFO and Administrator said all is ok they will pick up the remaining amount. David Sieme will be in touch with the Shutter Company to tell them we can start the process as soon as the budget for Township is approved. The building will be painted before the shutters are put up.

Georgia Rd. Schoolhouse—telephone pole supporting the spotlight for building fell over on Friday, February 24, 2023. It missed the building thanks be to God! JCP&L is responsible for the pole and Buildings and Grounds dept. called them and it was replaced by Sunday, Feb. 26, 2023. The Tree nearest the pole needs to be taken down so the new wires for electric service to building can go in. The money for removing the tree will come out of Historic Preservation Operating Budget. That should be accomplished within 2 weeks. Once that is done Jersey Central will run a line in and an Electrician hired by twp. Will install electricity in the building. This will be enough for a security system to be installed for Fire and Burglary and some lighting inside the building. Money was already approved for this last year. Our operating budget is \$5,700.,00

Wikoff Hill Burial Ground—Meg and Neil are updating resident biographies. Meg found a book containing new names of people buried there—no headstones that we can find. The names are Rebekkah VanCleve, John Forman, (1748) death date, et al. The google docs is being updated and the name is Wikoff Hill Residents. We found on Interment.net names of residents. The book is called Forman Genealogy from 1901 by Anne Spotswood that gives the new names. Jacob Forman (ship Capt.) died 1841. The Wikoff History read by James Steen from Red Bank Register – was about the Reunion held at the cemetery. Still looking for info on Henrik Williamson, family seems to think he was a revolutionary war Patriot, but no information is available. Not listed in Stryker's which lists all Rev. War Vets from New Jersey. He is not listed in Loyalty regiments. Kevin will go to State Archives to see if he can find more info on H. Williamson. Hoping to have this project done by March 2023. We've found that the Taylor house on the Point in Freehold Boro was the homestead for Garrett Wikoff and his family.

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Agriculture Museum will be cleaned up and sorted by Todd Caissie, et al. Todd has a new poster made for the Blacksmith Shop to be hung in there. It will be 48"x48" and will be in there for Weekend in Old Monmouth.

Sue Lamson and Cheryl Polverino are still working on the scanning project of the Vertical File-Historic Freehold Trivia.

March 18, 2023 will be 2 performances of 'Meet the Oakleys'. A combined fundraiser for FTHS and Center Players. This was written by Richard Smith and Denise Warren. It is a live performance at Oakley Farm.

April 16, 2023 will be debut of One Room Schoolhouse tours of Monmouth County. There are 6 schoolhouses included-Montrose School-Court St. School, Blasingame school, Ardena Schoolhouse, Georgia Rd. Schoolhouse, West Freehold Schoolhouse.

Weekend in Old Monmouth will be May 6 & 7, 2023.

We received 15 more boxes from Richard A. Grubb assoc. from the West Freehold Village dig. We would like to get them done by April. Todd and Dave will go thru the boxes to get display items for the Cow Barn. Once the boxes are sorted out they will be stored in the attic at Oakley.

The Heritage Society also rec'd 10 years of Freehold Transcript from 2012 through 2022. The Transcript stopped publication in December 2022. These were donated by former editor Mark Rosman.

Stephen Downey will submit for the Monmouth County Preservation Award 2023 nominating the Henderson Barn restoration. The Township rec'd the award for the Smokehouse at Saker Property previously.

Township Buildings & Grounds are replacing the sheetrock at top of stairs in main house, they also repaired the issue with the exterior rear lights.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:50pm

