

TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
6101 THIRTEENTH ST.  
MAYS LANDING, NJ  
December 9, 2010  
7:00 PM

The meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was called to order by Chairman Ronald McArthur. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the certification of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Law was read. In addition to Chairman McArthur the following members were in attendance: Jennie Ayres, Linda Benner, Cheryl Fetty, Elmer Ripley, William Sacchinelli, Sam Wells and Grant Wilinski. John Kurtz was absent.

Minutes

On the motion of Cheryl Fetty, second of William Sacchinelli and carried by unanimous roll call vote the minutes of October 14, 2010 were approved as presented.

The applicant was not present.

Announcements

Old Business

Mrs. Fetty thanked everyone who helped with the tree lighting ceremony and asked that Joe Sprigg of the Public Works Department be recognized by the Township Committee for all that he does to help on his personal time. Cheryl Fetty moved, second of Jennie Ayres to have a letter addressed to Township Committee requesting that Mr. Sprigg be recognized. Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

New Business

It was reported that the Zoning Officer did send a letter to Bank of America but no letter was sent to Liberty Gas.

Date Set For Reorganization Meeting

On the motion of William Sacchinelli, second of Linda Benner and carried by unanimous voice vote to hold the Reorganization meeting on Thursday, January 13, 2011 at 7PM in the Court Room.

Mr. Testa arrived.

Applications

#7-10 Robert C. Testa Jr. 5694 Mays Landing/Somers Point Rd. Bl 979 Lot 3

Continuation from June 10, 2010. Application to demolish building.

Mr. Testa stated that he had done what was asked plus a little bit more by advertising in the Record Journal for six months, twice a month, as well as Craig's List and another unnamed web site and once or twice in the Press of Atlantic City. Mr. Testa stated that he had three pages of phone calls that were dead ends. Mr. Testa submitted the phone list as well as the list of advertisements placed.

Mr. Sacchinelli stated that at the May meeting Mr. Testa had suggested that Mr. Sacchinelli check with the Building Inspector who had a record of the collapse of the property's front porch due to the snow. Mr. Sacchinelli stated that he checked with the Building Inspector and there is no record of the collapse. Mr. Testa stated that he did call the Building Inspectors Office, and was told by that he was going to be "red-flagged"

and given permission to clean up the porch. Mr. Testa stated that he did not recall saying there was a written report. Mr. Sacchinelli asked if there was a structural report. Mr. Testa replied that he did not have such a report and pointed out that he had never been asked to get one. Mr. Sacchinelli stated that it could be required of the applicant.

Elmer Ripley said that this was an example of demolition by neglect and said that he would like to see a formal report indicating that this house is not capable of being repaired. Mr. Ripley said he would like to make a formal request that this Board ask for this report. Mr. Testa said that this was his third time in front of this Board and that could have been asked for previously. Mr. Testa again stated that he had done all that had been required of him.

On the motion of Jennie Ayres, second of William Sachinelli the application was approved as presented with the following roll call vote: Benner, yes; Fetty, no; Ripley, no; Sacchinelli, yes; Wells, yes, Ayres, yes; McArthur, yes. 5 members voting yes, 2 no, no abstentions.

Comments made by members during discussion (prior to vote)

Jennie Ayres: Ms. Ayres stated that the Applicant had done what he was asked to do and that although she feels very strongly about the preservation of structures it would be unfair and unfortunate to now go back and start over again. Ms. Ayres added that the options have been exhausted according to our current procedures.

Linda Benner: Ms. Benner stated that while she is not happy about losing another structure, she agreed that if anything else was to be required it should have been set in motion previously and not now.

William Sacchinelli: Mr. Sacchinelli stated that the information given to him at the previous meeting was not correct and that was what he was going to be basing his decision on. At the applicants request the Secretary read back the statements made at the May meeting. The applicant stated again that he had called the building inspector after the porch had collapsed and that he didn't feel it was his responsibility to make the report.

Grant Wilinski: Mr. Wilinski said that the process should not be easy because once the structure is gone it is gone.

Cheryl Fetty: Ms. Fetty stated that the Commission should have had an historic architect look at this structure. In response to a question by Ms. Fetty, the applicant responded that if given approval the building would be demolished within two months.

Sam Wells: Mr. Wells reminded the applicant that the garage would be a separate issue as stated at the June meeting. It was again made clear to the applicant that this application did not include the garage.

#### Sub Committee

Jennie Ayres distributed a summary of the proposed changes to the ordinance for presentation to the Township Committee. It was determined that the Secretary would place a copy of the summary, the existing ordinance and the proposed ordinance in the mail bins of Dr. Kesselman and Mr. Cain who are the current liaisons. Ms. Ayers will follow up by contacting the liaisons personally.

William Sacchinelli moved, second of Cheryl Fetty and carried by unanimous voice vote that the current ordinance, proposed ordinance and the summary will be placed in the liaisons bins.

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Memorializations

On the motion of William Sacchinelli, second of Cheryl Fetty and carried by unanimous voice vote the following memorializations were approved as presented: #22-10, #23-10, #24-10 and #25-10.

Public Comment

There were no members of the public present.

A sub committee consisting of Linda Benner, Ronald McArthur and Elmer Ripley was named to suggest the wording for a plaque that is to be placed where a home is to be torn down on Weymouth Rd. Jennie Ayres suggested that a procedure be established for plaques to be placed at sites of significance.

On the motion of Jennie Ayres, second of William Sacchinelli and carried the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Martino, Secretary