

Township of Pequannock
Historic District Commission

The regular meeting of the Pequannock Township Historic District Commission was held Wednesday April 5, 2017 at 7 p.m. at the Pompton Plains Railroad Station Museum with all members and council liaison present.

The minutes of the March meeting were accepted as sent by Dave Wisneski and seconded by Lou Hebert.

1. Martin Berry House Status Report

a. Application has been made for construction documents for the first four phases of work on the house .We will hear the status of this later in the Spring.

b. Agreement with the Historical Society and the Township..A committee from the Society has met with Chris T. and are near to an agreement. When this is finalized we will have access. Cathy Winterfield is still planning a "walk through" the house for council, boards etc.

c. Spring cleanup Review.. About 24 people gathered on the grounds of the Martin Berry House on April 3 and did a cleanup of leaves sticks and garbage (28 bags of leaves, 3 bags of junk, and several cans of sticks). Many thanks to all who participated. (Ed Englebart had an egg hunt with prizes to make the day fun!) Those attending realized that it is a large piece of property (almost 3 acres).

2. Notifications regarding plans and/or demolition work on Township Historic properties....none received. Dave Wisneski reported that a house on Oak Ave looked like it was being prepared for demolition.

3. Special Events Participation and Exhibits for 2017

a. Memorial Day /exhibit at Grace Hall We will focus on the 100th Anniversary of US participation in World War 1. We have original photos and World War 1 toy soldiers. There will also be a Martin Berry House table with photos of the cleanup and a push for membership.

b. Street Fair. The Museum will be open that day. The Historical Society will have a booth. We might have a sale that day also. This year the Chamber of Commerce is running the Fair.

c. Hoe Down.....we will participate...plans to be made later

c. Pathways. The next meeting will possibly be on May 23. We are hopeful that the Martin Berry House can be viewed by then. (even in a limited way)

4. Museum Updates

a. Sewer connections pending Utility locations are marked

b. County Bike Path Updates. There is optimism that this may be approved by 2018.

c. Museum Displays Municipal Building Display Case....Jane Costello suggested that we feature Dial-a-ride in the case as it is the 40th anniversary of the service. There are many photos clippings and artifacts at the Dial-a -ride office that can be used for this.

5. Reports

a. Historical Society Updates. Meeting was held April 4. Some upcoming events - Pizza Uno 5 to 10 p.m. on April 11th May 29 at 12:30...Cemetery Tour \$20 with Ed Englebart. Encouraging new memberships is key for this group.

b. Open Space Advisory Board...Bob Safarik reported that there was no meeting last month.

1. Ed Englebart reported that under the Open Space Trust there is a Morris County Trails Construction Grant Program. The deadline for this year is June 30.(the town up-fronts the money and is reimbursed when the project is completed)There are two workshops on this Tuesday April 25 and May 18 at the Morris County Cultural Center.

Other Business

a. Dave Wisneski reported that he made contact with Leslie Brieger, a relative of Charles Schuyler (a great-great granddaughter who lives in Fla., but was formerly from Montclair) He will continue to pursue this as she was interested.

b. Ed Englebart procured a list of all the Morris Canal employees. Eight names of those who lived in Pequannock. He also was contacted by a Berry family member from Hackettstown who had connections in Wayne. She sent a family tree material and photos. Martin Berry Williams thinks they are all related.

c. Passaic River Coalition. There was an article in the paper about this group reforming. They are still interested in dismantling two dams. A study showed that this was not feasible....too expensive and a swampy outcome. We are against taking out these dams)

7. Donations

a. Triangle Grill framed photo circa 1937....with 2017 menus on eh back...donated by Doug Harper

b. Telegraph Gill.....several messages could be sent on the same line (1907)

c. 1987 Pequannock Township Monopoly board game. Betty and Ed Vryhoff

d. New New Jersey Diner Book. W. Jay Wanczyk (written by the speaker who made a presentation at the Historical Society)

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm by Bob Safarik and seconded by Lou Hebert.

Respectfully submitted Jane Costello