

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

MORRIS COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION TRUST FUND REVIEW BOARD

30 Schuyler Place
October 2, 2013

Morristown
New Jersey

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM by Art Palombo, Chairman.

Members present:

Janet Foster, Architectural History
Mary-Anna Holden, Region IV
William Orlandi, Region I
Arturo Palombo, Preservation Architecture
George Shanoian, Region III
Randy Tortorello, At-Large
Virginia Vogt, Morris County Heritage Commission
George Wien, Region II
James Woodruff, At-Large

Members with excused absence:

Ann Granbery, Historic Landscape Specialist
John Solu, Building Restoration

Also attending:

Deena Leary, Director, Morris County Dept. of Planning & Development
Ray Chang, Historic Preservation Program Coordinator

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

Adequate notice of this meeting in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act has been provided and filed with the Town of Morristown, the Morris County Clerk, the Daily Record and the Star Ledger.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There is no comment from the public.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by Chairman Palombo, seconded by Vice-Chairman Orlandi, the Board approved the minutes of the May 1, 2013 Board meeting.

Aye: Foster, Orlandi, Palombo, Shanoian, Tortorello, Vogt, Wien, Woodruff

Nay: None Abstain: Holden

On a motion by Chairman Palombo, seconded by Vice-Chairman Orlandi, the Board approved the minutes of the May 11, 2013 Board meeting (Board Site Visit).

Aye: Holden, Orlandi, Palombo, Shanoian, Tortorello, Vogt, Wien, Woodruff

Nay: None Abstain: Foster

On a motion by Vice-Chairman Orlandi, seconded by member Holden, the Board approved the minutes of the June 3, 2013 Board meeting (1st Final Presentation).

Aye: Foster, Holden, Orlandi, Shanoian, Tortorello, Vogt, Wien, Woodruff

Nay: None Abstain: Palombo

On a motion by Chairman Palombo, seconded by Vice-Chairman Orlandi, the Board approved the minutes of the June 5, 2013 Board meeting (2nd Final Presentation).

Aye: Foster, Holden, Orlandi, Palombo, Shanoian, Tortorello, Vogt, Wien, Woodruff

Nay: None Abstain: None

On a motion by Chairman Palombo, seconded by Vice-Chairman Orlandi, the Board approved the minutes of the June 12, 2013 Board meeting (Deliberation).

Aye: Holden, Orlandi, Palombo, Shanoian, Tortorello, Vogt, Wien, Woodruff

Nay: None Abstain: Foster

On a motion by Chairman Palombo, seconded by Vice-Chairman Orlandi, the Board approved the minutes of the June 12, 2013 Board meeting (Deliberation- Closed Session).

Aye: Holden, Orlandi, Palombo, Shanoian, Tortorello, Vogt, Wien, Woodruff

Nay: None Abstain: Foster

GRANT EXTENSION REQUESTS - 2011 GRANTS

1. *Stanhope United Methodist Church*: The Board considered the Church's request for a one-year extension of the Narthex window grant. The Church advised that additional work is required with the louvers in the tower before the window could be re-installed. On a motion by member Foster, seconded by member Tortorello, the Board approved a one-year extension on the narthex window 2011 grant.

Aye: Foster, Holden, Orlandi, Palombo, Shanoian, Tortorello, Vogt, Wien, Woodruff

Nay: None Abstain: None

2. *Steam Locomotive 4039*: The Board considered the request from the Whippany Railway Museum for a one-year extension of the restoration grant. The Museum advised that the restoration of the steam engine had been delayed close to a year pending FRA approval of the design for a new steam boiler. That approval has since been received and work is progressing on the boiler. Consequently, work on the tender and locomotive cab has been delayed. The contractor had advised that the locomotive and tender should be operational by the spring of 2014. On a motion by Chairman Palombo, seconded by member Foster, the Board approved a one-year extension on the Locomotive restoration 2011 grant.

Aye: Foster, Holden, Orlandi, Palombo, Shanoian, Tortorello, Vogt, Wien, Woodruff

Nay: None Abstain: None

3. *Ford-Faesch House*: The Board considered the request from the Township of Rockaway for an extension of the 2011 construction grant. The Township advised that a number of reasons have prevented the project from completion by the grant expiration date: hurricane Sandy impacted construction and supply of windows / doors, rainy season affected progress. The

Township is nearing the end of the punch list. On a motion by member Woodruff, seconded by member Holden, the Board approved a 3-month extension on the 2011 construction grant.

Aye: Foster, Holden, Orlandi, Palombo, Shanoian, Tortorello, Vogt, Wien, Woodruff

Nay: None Abstain: None

4. *Lake Drive School*: The Board considered the request from the Borough of Mt. Lakes of a one-year extension on the roof restoration grant. The Borough advised that the Borough Board of Education went out to bid the previous year but did not select a contractor. The Borough plans to go out to bid in mid December 2013, with a project completion date of late August 2014. On a motion by Chairman Palombo, seconded by Vice-Chairman Orlandi, the Board approved a one-year extension on the roof restoration 2011 grant.

Aye: Foster, Holden, Orlandi, Palombo, Shanoian, Tortorello, Vogt, Wien, Woodruff

Nay: None Abstain: None

GRANT RE-ALLOCATION REQUESTS

1. *Oscar A. Kincaid Home of History* (2012 Grant): The Board considered a request from the Historical Society of Boonton Township to re-allocate approximately \$5,000 in unused grant funds toward repairing the early twentieth-century garage located west of the Home of History. The Board noted other proposed actions that would affect the Kincaid site, including parking spaces adjacent to the garage being established by PSE&G as part of the completion of their power line project. Work on the garage has implications for other landscape features. The Board suggested that the Historical Society prepare an interpretive plan for the site (which may or may not include the garage) that provides a comprehensive consideration for siting including but not limited to accessible ramps, walks, drives, parking, and other site features. The County's easement covers site features. The Board looks forward to the opportunity to input on the Society's plans for siting. On a motion by Chairman Palombo, seconded by Vice-Chairman Orlandi, the Board denied the re-allocation request from the Historical Society of Boonton Township.

Aye: Foster, Holden, Orlandi, Palombo, Shanoian, Tortorello, Vogt, Wien, Woodruff

Nay: None Abstain: None

At this point, member Woodruff left the meeting room.

2. *Presbyterian Church in Morristown* (2012 Grant): The Board considered a request from the Church to re-allocate unused funds from the 2012 grant toward repointing of the northeast chimney at the Howard House. The Board recognized that the 2012 grant had previously been amended to include work on the central chimney at the Howard House, plus the vestry roof. On a motion by member Foster, seconded by member Holden, the Board approved the request to re-allocate unused funds from the 2012 grant toward the repointing of the northeast chimney at the Howard House.

Aye: Foster, Holden, Orlandi, Palombo, Shanoian, Tortorello, Vogt, Wien

Nay: None Abstain: None

At this point, member Woodruff returned to the meeting room.

3. *Community of St. John Baptist (2012 Grant)*: The Board considered the request from the Community of St. John Baptist to re-allocate unused funds from the 2012 grant toward the cost for one additional month of construction administration. The Community advised that, as bids came in lower than estimated, the change in construction administration fees could be accommodated by the existing grant. The Board recognized that the approved 2012 grant only included 4 months of construction period. On a motion by Chairman Palombo, seconded by member Vogt, the Board denied the request to re-allocate unused funds from the 2012 grant toward the cost for one additional month of construction administration.

Aye: Foster, Holden, Orlandi, Palombo, Shanoian, Tortorello, Vogt, Wien, Woodruff
Nay: None Abstain: None

4. *First Presbyterian Church of Boonton (2011 Grant)*: The Board considered the request from the Church for a 1-month extension of the 2011 grant and to re-allocate unused funds from the 2011 grant toward the painting of the door hood at the entrance door at the tower. The Church advised that the window and stairs work of the 2011 grant have been completed. On a motion by Chairman Palombo, seconded by member Shanoian, the Board approved a 2-month extension of the 2011 grant and the request to re-allocate unused funds from the 2011 grant toward the painting of the door hood at the entrance door at the tower.

Aye: Foster, Holden, Orlandi, Palombo, Shanoian, Tortorello, Vogt, Wien, Woodruff
Nay: None Abstain: None

PROJECT UPDATE

First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon: The Board reviewed a letter from Historic Building Architects, LLC to the First Presbyterian Church of New Vernon, dated Oct. 2, 2013, regarding the significant structural problems with the foundation walls. The engineers have recommended that the existing fieldstone walls be underpinned. This foundation work is critical before the roof work could proceed. The Church proposed to pay the \$17,000 for the professional services to prepare the documentation, and apply in the 2014 HP round a \$450,000~\$500,000 project including the scope of foundation work, as well as the scope per the 2013 Contract Documents grant (less the tower and chimney work). There would be no change to the 2013 grant. The Board considered that additional information is required, and that the documentation will be reviewed by the County Consultant.

FUNDING ELIGIBILITY: WAYFINDING PROGRAM

The Board discussed the funding eligibility of the Wayfinding program from the Morris County Tourism Bureau. The Tourism Bureau received \$50,000 (2009 grant) from the New Jersey Historic Trust, plus \$30,000 own match for a total of \$80,000 to create a shovel-ready Wayfinding program. The Tourism Bureau recently completed a \$141,000 pilot program with a kiosk in a pocket park in Morristown pointing to various historic sites in the County using \$65,000 from the Morris County Park Commission and \$76,000 from their own fundraising. The total Wayfinding program is estimated to cost \$1.2 million. The Tourism Bureau is looking for County support, as the state will not fund this County-specific project. The signage will drive visitation to historic sites, and meet one of the HP program goals: increasing opportunities for heritage tourism in the County.

The Board noted that the purpose of the HP program has been the preservation of historic resources. Efforts have focused on the preservation of the actual historic structures or objects. Interpretive activities and signage have been ineligible for funding consideration since the beginning of the program. The Board considered that the goal of preserving the significant historic resources in the County has not been reached. The Board determined that the Wayfinding program is not eligible for HP funding consideration at this time, and suggested that the Tourism Bureau seek assistance from transportation enhancement grants.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Ray Chang, P.P., Program Coordinator
Historic Preservation Trust Fund