

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

MORRIS COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION TRUST FUND REVIEW BOARD

**Morris County Library, Public Meeting Room, 30 E. Hanover Avenue, Whippany, NJ
June 6, 2012**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Art Palombo, Chairman.

Members present:

Mary-Anna Holden, Region IV (arrived 7:16 PM)
William Orlandi, Region I
Arturo Palombo, Preservation Architecture
George Shanoian, Region III
John Solu, Building Restoration
Randy Tortorello, At-Large
Virginia Vogt, Morris County Heritage Commission
George Wien, Region II
James Woodruff, At-Large

Members with excused absence:

Janet Foster, Architectural History
Ann Granbery, Historic Landscape Specialist

Also attending:

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

Members of the Public:

William Downing
Various members of the public

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

Chairman Palombo noted that the public can attend the Final Presentations except for presentations involving acquisitions of property. Members of the public will not be permitted to address the Board or the applicants during the presentation portion of the meeting. This will allow the applicants to make their presentations uninterrupted. Fellow applicants will not be permitted in the room during presentations. The layout of the meeting will continue to provide for a public portion prior to the presentations and again after all the presentations for that

meeting have been completed. The Board's deliberations will continue to take place in closed session.

Mr. William P. Downing, 34 Wesley Place, Mt. Tabor NJ 07878, read a letter in opposition to the Mt. Tabor Historic District application submitted by the Mt. Tabor Historical Society. Mr. Downing stated this application would affect his home and an estimated 219 additional properties. He explained that Mt. Tabor residents own their homes but lease their property from the Mt. Tabor Camp Meeting Association (CMA), which maintains and manages a number of common properties. The operating budget for the CMA is raised through rental of the common properties as well as resident assessments. Mr. Downing stated that when the Mt. Tabor Historical Society presented plans to the CMA for the creation of a Historic District, it was represented that the common buildings would become eligible for grant funds thereby reducing the financial obligations for the residents. Mr. Downing stated that since that time, the CMA has learned that establishing a Historic District will not make the community buildings eligible for grant funds and has reduced its support of the proposal. Mr. Downing pointed out that home owners' support for the project is also disappearing. He had earlier presented to the Preservation Trust a petition that supports this claim.

Mr. Downing pointed out that within the grant application, the applicant identifies no problem that will be resolved or need that will be addressed if the grant is awarded. He stated that the registration of a district on the State and National Registries of Historic Places offers no preservation protection for any structure. He pointed out that the applicants have continuously told Mt. Tabor residents that the registration will impose no new preservation requirements and have no impact what so ever on how they maintain their homes. As Mr. Downing believed the applicant has failed to identify any need or tangible benefit for the community, or the County, he urged the Board to reject this application.

SECOND FINAL PRESENTATIONS

Ten applicants appeared before the Board and made final presentations for their grant applications (Applicant / Project Name):

1. Museum of Early Trades & Crafts / Museum of Early Trades & Crafts
2. United Methodist Church in Madison / United Methodist Church in Madison
3. Church of the Redeemer / Parish House and Church Building

At this point, member Holden arrived and joined the meeting.

4. DAR Morristown Chapter / Schuyler-Hamilton House
5. Trustees of the Ralston Cider Mill / Ralston Cider Mill
6. Butler Borough / Butler Railroad Station
7. Washington Township Historical Society / Old Union Cemetery
8. Stanhope United Methodist Church / Stanhope United Methodist Church

At this point, member Tortorello left the room.

9. Mt. Tabor Historical Society / History House, Mt. Tabor Historic District

10. Craftsman Farms Foundation / Craftsman Farms

REVIEW SCHEDULE

Mr. Chang reminded the Board of the review schedule:

Monday, June 11	3 rd Final Presentations (County Library)
Wednesday, June 13	Board Deliberation (MCP&D)
Wednesday, June 27	Funding Recommendations to Freeholders

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Chang, P.P.
Historic Preservation
Program Coordinator