

Morris Township Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) **Minutes, April 30, 2019**

Meeting was opened at 7:30 pm

Attendance: Carol Barkin, Judith Sacks- Bliss, Jean Rich, Sarah Harris, Craig Goss, Charles Schmidt and Sue Young.

Minutes: Review and approval of the March, 2019 minutes read -approved by Chuck and Judith.

Old Business:

- May is Historic Preservation month: “This Place Matters” Banners were presented to:
 - Washington Valley Community Association for their preservation of the Washington Valley School House, built in 1869. WVCA annual Meeting will be held Friday, May 3rd at 7:30 pm to acknowledge the award.
 - Acorn Hall, built in 1853, the home of the Morris County Historical Society and house museum which is open to the public.
- 1 Whippany Road: discussion about the new proposal for demolition of the Wyse house and building of a Day Care center that was submitted and would reflect smaller signage and lighting. Neighbors are very upset with the proposal, design of the building, increased traffic, increased light at night and increased water run-off. The Board of Adjustment will reopen discussion on June 24th at 7:30pm. Only 3 “no” votes are needed to suspend the proposal. Both Morristown and Morris Twp. Historic Preservation Commissions are requesting that there be no demolition and to provide to the community, solutions to adaptively reuse and renovate the existing house which would maintain the residential character of the property and neighborhood. Ken Miller (Chairman of the Morristown Historic Preservation Commission) and Carol Barkin (Chairwoman of the Morris Twp. Historic Preservation Commission) will write letters to the Board of Adjustment, copying Tim Quinn, Jim Slate and the TTC. with their suggestions and proposals for the site.
- 257 Mt. Kemble Avenue, May 20th hearing. Proposal to build multiple condos on very steep slopes and in an area that has significant historic references and archaeological remains from Prudden homes, a fire station and is a contributing property to the Prudentown historic district. This would start to set a dangerous precedent for future and additional proposals for Mt. Kemble Avenue area.
- Prudentown signs have been delivered, waiting for approval from the County and State to install.
- John Smith house continues to be renovated, no word about time for sale. The WVCA wants to ensure the safety of the Lime Kiln which is in the ROW on Washington Valley Road.
- Whitehead Road South Bridge to be built later in the Fall.

New Business:

- Ordinance language – the HPC needs to strengthen our ability to make an impact upon decisions regarding and protecting historic sites and homes in Morris Twp. The HPC is requesting a 90-day moratorium for any demolition applications, so that appropriate options can be explored.
- Tourism this summer –exciting programs all summer. For more information:
<https://www.morristourism.org/events/list/>

Adjournment: 8:35pm until May 28, 2019 at 7:30pm

Respectfully submitted, Sue Young, Secretary