

FREEHOLD TOWNSHIP HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF AUGUST 15, 2016 MEETING

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

Attendees are as follows: Joe Engler, Kevin Marshal, Michael Berman, Cindy Livingston, Cheryl Cook—also in attendance Lester Preston, Twp. Comm. Liaison and Joann Bujalski (prospective Commissioner)

Minutes of July 18, 2016 had been sent by email to all Commissioners and were approved by Joe Engler, and 2nd by Cindy Livingston

Kevin Marshall had done some extensive research on Dr. Thomas Henderson – both from Ellis History of Monmouth County. Dr. Henderson was a very prominent citizen of the Township. An order from Congress in 1776 established a “Flying Camp” to be setup for quick access to battles around New York and New Jersey. Dr. Henderson was appointed to be a Major in a Battalion of the Flying Camps. He was with the Monmouth Battalion. He also was the agent for the New Jersey Gazette for Freehold, Monmouth County. He was the one who advised the Gazette of the Firing of homes in Freehold during the American Revolution–Battle of Monmouth. Thomas Henderson recorded an incident about ‘Fagan’ the Pine Robber. The Monmouth County Militia captured him, he was tried and executed for robbery and murder, this incident happened just outside Freehold possibly on Dutch Lane Road near the Nursing Home or on Rt. 537 towards Colts Neck exact location could not be determined at this time.

Dr. Henderson, Physician of the ‘County’ at the time of the American Revolution, reported about all the homes fired by the British just before the Battle of Monmouth to the New Jersey Gazette.

During the Battle of Monmouth Dr. Henderson now a Lt. Col. met Gen. Washington on the Battlefield and reported about General Lee’s order of retreat. Washington then rode up to General Lee’s position and lashed out at him on the battlefield. This took place near Overlook Hill on the Battlefield and Washington is said to call Lee a “Poultroun” and said “you can go to the front or go to ‘Hell’ I care not which”.

Henderson then called on Gen. Washington to not follow the British in their retreat because the army is not in good enough shape to pursue. This opinion was shared by Henderson, Forman, Scudder, et al.

It is stated that Gen. Washington came to Dr. Henderson’s house for Tea sometime between 1775 – 1776.

Heritage Society Issues: Cheryl Cook reported that Tom Cook, Committeeman will be reprinting several brochures that cover the History of Freehold, Village of West Freehold, History of Religious Organizations of Freehold, William Furman Blacksmith Shop, Toll House, Historic Sites Tour, Cincinnati Hall and a 1968 publication entitled “The 275th Anniversary of Founding of Freehold and surrounding Communities” by Lillian Laufer. These brochures will be available at West Freehold Schoolhouse, Georgia Road Schoolhouse and The Oakley Farm. We may ask for donations of \$4.00 each to help support our fundraising opportunities.

Eagle Scout is getting ready to resurrect the Rain Garden at Oakley Farm. It is the garden situated along the Wemrock Road Barn. Original plants will be saved as much as possible. Pat Eisemann and Darin Caraviello will be supervising this project. Weeds will be gotten out as much as possible.

Community Garden – 46 plots are active in the garden. A farmer’s market was established in early August and over 3 weekends they have garnered \$341.00. Gardeners with extra vegetables are donating them to the market. Also the PAR garden is donating to Open Door food pantry.

West Freehold Schoolhouse—Windowsill Repair-8 windows will need to be patched and 1 sill replaced completely. Chris Sage – mahogany sill replacement and repair - \$1,821.00

AGC Const.-mahogany sill replacement and repair - \$1,600.00

The above contracts were voted upon and a unanimous decision was made to give the job to Chris Sage of Manalapan. Due to the expertise of his work on the salvage of materials from the House at 3 Gully Rd., Freehold, NJ it was determined that Chris was the best contractor for this particular job. Lester Preston agreed we have enough money in our operating budget to get this done before the winter of 2016. Michael Berman will submit this to Catherine Campbell/Finance Dept. to start paperwork for Purchase Order. Hopefully work will be done late September or early October 2016.

Front Porch Posts also need to be repaired/replaced---will be an ongoing conversation. We will be submitting these bids to Monmouth County Historical Commission Grant Program in Nov. 2016. Michael Berman will firm up quotes at next meeting and we will go from there to apply for grant. We will also be adding 2 pair of shutters that need to be replaced.

Arts Pavilion Project-Michael Berman is actively pursuing this project including garnering funding and having gotten a bid for the building from Oak Tree Pavilions, Monroe, NJ. The structure will be 20’x14’ Michael asked Lester to help with getting Engineering, Building Dept., and all parties involved in project to meet at Oakley Farm to decide on placement, procedures, etc. The sound system will be installed inside a cupola on top of the structure. Michael is also looking into Electricians to improve lighting for security purposes at Oakley Farm and also for the new structure. We hope to hook into the electric lines coming in from a pole on the lawn at the farm. We would like to bury the lines from that pole because of the trees that are in the area—possibly could be affected from storms. The Township will need to probably upgrade the Amperage coming into the property. But there are 2 electric services on the farmhouse so we may be able to use 1 of the services for the pavilion and the outdoor lighting. Lester will work with Tim White and Electrical Inspector. The structure will cost approx.. \$15,000.00-\$18,000.00. The Heritage Society has raised \$30,000.00 to date and are actively seeking more donations. The sound system and electrical upgrades will be separate from the cost of the building itself. We are still looking for areas to place the pavilion on Oakley Farm property. We also discussed impact on neighborhood for sound issues. Programs will be scheduled for Spring and Fall possibly Summer as well.

Henderson Park—Richard Grubb or a representative of his company will be at our Sept. meeting. His proposal will be discussed. Michael, Joe Luongo and Cheryl Cook met with representatives of Cracker Barrel in Aug. 2016 and we asked about housing the artifacts from Archaeological digs at Cincinnati Hall and also for construction entrance to Park area for clearing of site, trees, etc. and they offered us a depressed curb near Walmart Drive and the entrance of the parking area for Cracker Barrel. Once we have that we will be able to start cleaning up the land for the park. The \$100,000.00 due us from DDR NOV will be released as soon as the Planning Board approves the project and the Cracker Barrel is constructed. Once the money is released we will have 2 years to finish the park.

Smith House (Rt. 79) Township has reached out to purchase the land but no response.

Adjournment—8:15PM—Respectfully Submitted by Cheryl Cook, Vice Chair-FTHPC