

HAMBURG HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

April 24, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Those present participated in the Flag Salute.

Statement of Certification – This meeting is in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Public Law 1975, Chapter 231, Sections 4 and 13, as advertised by Annual Notice.

Roll Call: Dan Barr, Russell Brown, George Endres, Charles McMickle, William Oehler and Art Walton. Absent: Thomas Graham. Wayne McCabe was not in attendance.

Meeting Minutes of January 23, 2023: A motion was made by McMickle, second by Oehler to approve the minutes of January 23, 2023 with all eligible in favor. Barr abstained.

Bills/Vouchers: None.

Correspondence:

- 2022 Annual Report submitted to Thivierge, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office
- Sussex County Bird Club 70th Anniversary Dinner – April 27, 2023

There were no comments on the correspondence.

New/Unfinished Business:

Graham questions status of mill property application. Brick provides update on the progress of the application submission and potential timeline for scheduling for hearing.

Chairman's Agenda:

Chairman Barr discusses the annual training requirement , the formation of the Commission and the designation of the properties.

Chairman Barr discusses prominent members of the Borough:

- Joseph Sharpe, owner of stone mill and iron forge. His company made cannonballs for the British during the Revolutionary War. The Borough was previously named Walling and Sharpsboro.
- Thomas Lawrence, owner of Hamburg Iron Works and formed the Hamburg Post Office.
- Fred Bennett, owner of the flour mill in 1928 which was eventually sold to Nabisco. Bennett marketed his products to women. The mill closed in 1979 and is currently beyond repair.
- Joseph Urban, architect who was hired to build the Gingerbread Castle. He also designed Mar-A-Lago.

The criteria for property designation: people, architecture and event.

Chairman Barr discusses the designated properties:

- Gingerbread Castle was first destination amusement park in the United States.

- Plastoid took over the castle and build the warehouse buildings adjacent to the mill.
- Presbyterian Church named Bethany Chapel– Governor Haines funded and built church around 1872 . This property (church and parsonage) has recently changed ownership. Commission would be involved in any potential applications for subdivision of that property. Parsonage does not have historical importance. Appeals of commission determinations are made to the Land Use Board.
- Limekilns are the remnants of Van Der Hoff lime industry which was a successful business prior to the development of cement. The limekilns were traded to the State for the property that is currently the Borough's park.

Main Street property owners were not interested in having their properties designated. The Commission has not pushed for designations since the property owners appreciate and maintain the historic residences and buildings in the Borough.

Chairman Barr would like to see Reeve Harden's residence designated in the future since he was very significant to the Borough.

Commission discussion on the condition of the designated properties and the status of the Main Street brew pub.

At 7:45 p.m., a motion is made to open to the public by Oehler, second by Walton with all in favor.

No public in attendance

At 7:45 p.m., a motion is made by Oehler, second by Brown to close the meeting to the public with all in favor.

At 7:45 p.m., a motion is made by Oehler, second by McMickle to adjourn the meeting with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Brick, Secretary
Hamburg Historic Preservation Commission