

Historic Sites Committee of Warren, NJ

March 10, 2022

Members attending: Rory Britt, Rich Disano, Christy Cwynar, Susie Boyce, Kari Quirós, Debra Rebetje, Alan Siegel, Karl Horster, John Lindner, Erica Sbarra, Greg Fitzgerald (via phone), Michael François (via phone), Aparna Virmani (via phone)

Visitor: Mick Marion (via phone),

Minutes were read and corrected.

New Business:

A. Codington

- a. John Lindner put in jacks to stabilize the structure.
- b. Mothballing of the building is moving forward.
 - i. The façade will look nice from the road.

B. Baptist Meeting House

- a. Dendrology Report
 - i. Margaret Westfield requested additional testing to be done on three beams but the HSC does not see that the testing will be with the cost and would prefer spending the money on doing testing for the age of the Kirch Ford House, instead.
- b. The County is expecting the HSC will “check the boxes” for ADA requirements but can handicap access be made? Any grant with the County requires some ADA requirements. (Due to the building being a historic site, it is not required to widen the doorways.)
 - i. The HSC will need to find out what are the Federal and State ADA regulations.
 - ii. Possible alternatives: audio and/or video tours of historic sites.
 - iii. The BMH does not have any property to use for parking and is located on a dangerous corner. (A police office would need to be on hand to take care of traffic during events.)
 - iv. The Staats House in South Bound Brook had a temporary ramp and, when a permanent one was installed, damage was made to the historic site. The initial cost of the permanent ramp was supposed to be \$20,000 but ended up being over \$100,000 by the time work was finished.

C. Cemeteries

- a. Signage: Alan created signs for all the cemeteries except for the one on Old Church Road.
 - i. Alan will reach out to two sign companies for estimates.
 - ii. Signage payment questions:
 - 1. Will the companies need to wait for months for payment?
 - 2. Will Alan have to pay upfront and be reimbursed?

D. Egg-o-Mat Barn

- a. Rory said that space has been cleared out in the Wagner to store the Egg-o-Mat.
- b. Karl offered to load it onto his truck and bring it over.

E. Cleaning

- a. There is a budget for cleaning in the amount of \$3,000.
- b. Rich's son, Anthony, can do the work quarterly for \$750 (Rich will remain on-site while the cleaning is being done). *All HSC attendees approved the cost. Cleaning needs to start ASAP.
 - i. A schedule needs to be made for the quarterly cleanings.

F. Mark Krane will send thank-you's to Carol DeFilippis and Nancy Micou for their work with the Historic Sites over many years.

G. The Schmaltz "shed" may, instead, have been a refrigerated container from where dairy products would have been stored for the milkmen to pick up and deliver locally.

H. Hoffheimer House

- a. The fate of the Hoffheimer House is still "on the fence".
- b. The HSC needs to make a presentation, to show the historic significance of the family and the famous architect who planned out the grounds of the estate, as well as to point out the promise of a centrally located and historically significant cultural center.
 - i. Need to choose a date to make the presentation before the Township Committee.
 - ii. Contact the Echoes-Sentinel newspaper and given them a copy of the presentation once it has been made to the Township Committee.
 - iii. The Letter of Eligibility and Hoffheimer family photos need to be included in the presentation.
 - iv. It might be beneficial to have either Margaret Westfield and/or Margaret Hickey present at the Township Committee when the presentation is made.

- c. Margaret Hickey thought that the fact that the family were industrialists and had a female aviator will help in getting a letter of eligibility. (Michael François will give her a tour of the house once he is back in New Jersey after April 1st.)
 - d. John Lloyd made a blueprint of the original Hoffheimer House building which has an overlay which shows changes that have been made.
 - e. The Hunting Club stated that they would like to hold meetings in the Hoffheimer House.
 - f. Mike Ryder of the Elks Club stated that he would like The Grotto cleaned up.
- I. Town Records
- a. The HSC needs a place to store the historical town records.
 - b. The storage area that was offered to the HSC is no longer available and the promise that the area was “fire proof” only meant that there were sprinklers which would destroy the documents.
- J. Duderstadt
- a. Duderstadt has one of the ten most important barns in the USA because it has “fachwerk” (half-timber). The next closest style barn is located in Wisconsin.
 - b. There is a budget of \$140,000 for a new HSR and restoration of the barn. When this is complete, the site may be used by the HSC.
 - c. The HSC needs to look for a farmer to farm the land (Karl?).

Meeting adjourned at 9:08pm

Respectfully submitted,
Kari Quiros, Rec. Sec.