

FRANKLIN BOROUGH
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes of the Regular Meeting - May 19th, 2021

Meeting called to order 7:00 pm at Trotter Area a behind Borough Hall

Flag Salute

Statement of Compliance (as read from the agenda)

Attendance:

Present: Phillip R. Crabb- Chairman
Mayor John Sowden (ex-officio)
John Postas –Borough Council Liaison
Dr. Earl Verbeek- Franklin Mineral Museum Liaison

Members:

Connie Cholminski
Donald DeVore
Jeffrey Garrity
Charles Postas, Sr.
Judy Williams

No one was absent.

Offsite Tour: Trotter Area- Phil Crabb conducted a 45 minute walking tour of the Trotter Area behind Borough Hall. Detailed explanations of the roadways, walkways, caves, outcroppings, and a specific fluorescent wall of rock from the early mining days of early 1900's were given. A specific photo emphasizing the "then and now" of the rock formation was provided for each member to make note.

This rock formation is a particular project planned for the future with the vision of safely clearing it and the area, lighting it, and promoting it as part of the Fluorescent Mineral Capital of the World.

The Meeting Reconvened to Borough Hall at 7:45.

OATH OF OFFICE

Jeffrey Garrity - **Member**

Judith Williams was Appointed **Secretary** for the FBHPC

BILLS

No bills to be paid other than the advertising for the meetings.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion continued about the Trotter Off-Site visit with notes made about how very little has changed from the early mining days, and when finished, it remains intact. Continued discussion of clearing the fluorescent wall and promoting it.

Discussion of Historic District Definition- Phil Crabb shared his view with the members on what the definition might be, and others shared their viewpoints. The group emphasized to focus on what is significant on the proposed historic district map which was previously provided at the April meeting. Not all parts of Franklin need to be, or are historic.

Discussion on the role of the HPC with future Planning Board applicants that require review by the FBHPC and when it would apply in regard to the location of the building that is within part of the proposed historic district.

Applications to be heard: no applications at this time. There was discussion of a builder applicant coming forward in the future regarding the remodel of one of the original buildings on Main Street.

NEW BUSINESS:

John and Phil were pleased to report that one of the Hungarian Church Pews and flagpoles were received from a local family and will be part of the preservation of the Franklin Heritage. Paul Weiss's bench from the department store was also obtained.

William Penn Foundation Grant- Phil, John, and Judy will be exploring the details of pursuing a grant. Need to develop a vision for the old Hungarian Church.

PUBLIC SESSION

The Meeting was opened to the Public, none came forward.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Jeff Garrity brought up about the zoning area of the Hungarian Church, and developing a vision for its future.

Earl Verbeek expressed he liked what he was hearing. The historic district will be the oversight group to represent the Zinc Ore body.

Charlie Postas expressed concerns for those people who would not be physically able to walk to the Trotter Wall and offered several solutions such as a golf cart, drone footage, video library access, and a walking app that encompasses Franklin history.

Don Devore expressed the bottom line in all planning and everything is money.

John Postas shared there is a Rock and Mineral Swap and Sale planned for July 31 at the Franklin Pond, and September 24 and 25 is the Mineral Show. He hoped to see the Trotter area cleaned up by then so it could be open for this.

Judy Williams shared some personal thoughts and expressed there is lots to do. The Franklin Historical Society has some grant money for the purpose of developing an app for a walking tour of Franklin History.

Adjournment: The Meeting was adjourned 9:15 pm. Next meeting planned for June 16, 2021.