

FRANKLIN BOROUGH
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes 7/21/2021

Meeting called to order 7:00 p.m.

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. Advisory: Dr. Earl Verbeek-Franklin Mineral Museum liaison

Members: Connie Cholminski, Donald DeVore, Jeffrey Garrity, Charles Postas, Sr., Judy Williams. No one was absent.

PRESENTATION: No presentations at this time. J & J Farms- Developer continues to be on a forthcoming agenda, , but did not appear at this meeting to review his planned design, work, and rehabilitation of the former Fitz John property on Main Street.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by C.Postas, Sr., second by J.Garrity, to accept the minutes. Motion approved.

PAYMENT OF BILLS: No bills at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. William Penn Foundation Grant- Knowledge Advancement

(application - Education level) \$150,000 grant. Phil Crabb will be exploring the grant criteria further in consultation with John Sowden and Tom Jones. Community/Education and Community Advancement are two main areas of criteria. A local representative from the Wm. Penn Foundation (greater Philadelphia area) will meet with Sowden, Crabb, and possibly Jones.

A lumber specialist (through Tom Jones) came to examine the wood shake shingles that are currently stored inside the Edison Schoolhouse/Hungarian Church. It was determined that approximately one-

third of the material is still usable. He was also doing a visual of the square footage of the roof to provide an estimate for the roof.

B. Kirby Grant- The FBHC will be researching the Kirby Foundation to see if grant money might be available to help with the project. The Kirby Foundation was very helpful in the past when looking for financial help.

C. Discussion of Historic District Definition

The board continued to discuss and review the outline of a potential historic district in Franklin. A resolution was suggested by Crabb that The Franklin Borough Historic Commission submits the Historic District Map as discussed.

[Mayor Sowden shared thoughts/questions to the board on possible inclusion of the Lime Kiln on Cork Hill Road, Farber's Quarry, East side of Wildcat Road near the Immaculate Conception Church. There was also discussion on extension of the western border of town.]

[With guidance and discussion, possibly go back to the outline of the map and include parts of Wildcat Road near the "Laner Corner", Immaculate, Fowler, the west side of Davis Road including the Van Horn Farm.]

The two paragraphs set off in brackets are from the June meeting and are reinstated in the July minutes as a reminder of the extended conversation.

There will be continued discussion and review of the proposed Historic District.

D. Application for Historic Marker- definitions, Franklin Mineral Museum (Open-Cut / Buckwheat), and Parker Shaft/Mine

A discussion occurred about the future application process of the Sussex County Historic Marker Program. Judy Williams, sitting on the Franklin Mineral Museum (FMM) Board and working with Dr. Earl Verbeek, Curator, and Mark Boyer, President, submitted the application for the FMM designating the Open-Cut/Buckwheat mine area as a significant historical place in Franklin history.

Ralph Bonard, local collector, and former Advisory for the Franklin Mineral Museum, submitted the application for the Parker Shaft/Mine as a significant historical place in Franklin history.

Part of the discussion concerned funding for the historic markers. The Franklin Mineral Museum marker will be funded (half by Sussex County and half by FMM). The Parker Shaft/Mine marker was possibly unfunded at the time of application. After detailed discussion, a motion was made by J.Postas, second by C.Cholminski, to approve financial backing for the Parker Shaft/Mine marker in the amount of \$1,200, or about half of the cost of the marker, the other half being paid by Sussex County. Seven affirmative votes, passed unanimously. Mayor Sowden, Dr. E.Verbeek, Advisory, and J.Postas, Council liaison, did not vote.

Concern was raised that there needs to be historical accuracy when applying for Markers so there would not be a problem with inaccurate or incorrect information on these markers, and there should be a review of the material, possibly by the FBHC, before it is submitted to the County Marker Program. At the time of the submission of the historic marker applications, the FBHC was not in existence. The Sussex County Historic Marker does have its own committee of historians which also reviews the submitted material, and visits the site to determine the validity of the location.

APPLICATIONS TO BE HEARD/RESOLUTIONS- Mogul Enterprises, LLC

Block 609, Lots 20, 21, 22 23 from PB 04-21-01

The FBHC is requesting additional information on the following:

- 1. Architects rendering of a final plan on the façade (outdoor rendering) as requested by J.Postas- request for copies**
2. Pg. 3 Lot 21, 23 already have approval
3. Pg. 5, #9
4. Pg. 9 #15

5. **Pg. 8 of 11-14- J. Postas brought up about the Board Engineer, need a representative from FBHC**
6. D. DeVore brought up about “material” or “non-material”- the need for definitions.
7. Phil stated approval with procedural contingencies. (30 days) approval after architectural rendering.
8. Preliminary plans for 151 Main Street.
Request for copies.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS- no resolutions for approval at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. The Jewish Business documentation through Eddie Mindlin, is being done
- B. High Street has new and expanding subsidence.

Open public session- no public

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS- John Sowden announced that Debbie Bonanno, town business administrator, would be leaving the boro August 13, 2021.

Adjournment: Motion by C. Postas, second by J.Garrity, the meeting was adjourned 8:07 pm. Next meeting planned for August 18, 2021 at 7 pm at Boro Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Williams

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FBHC Secretary