

**Historic Preservation Advisory Commission Meeting
Regular Meeting of June 20, 2011 7:00 pm**

The regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Advisory Commission took place on the above date. Vice Chairman Harry Kaplan read the Open Public Meeting Act and requested Board Secretary Mrs. Citterbart call the roll. Board Secretary Citterbart stated there was a quorum.

FLAG SALUTE

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Kaplan, Mr. Steinberg, Mrs. Schulte, Ms. Best, Mr. Becker (came in at 7:10 PM) and Mrs. Diglio

EXCUSED: Mr. Read

ABSENT: Mr. Wright

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

May 16, 2011

Mrs. Schulte made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction of Mrs. Diglio changed to excused not absent. Ms. Best seconded the motion.

AYE: Mr. Kaplan, Mr. Steinberg, Mrs. Schulte, Ms. Best

DISCUSSION

Wayne McCabe of McCabe & Associates, Inc. gave an explanation of a letter dated April 7, 2011 from Dan Saunders who is the acting director and administrator for State Historic Preservation Office. This letter was sent over to Pamela Garrett of the DOT. It is in regards to a project that Harold Pellow & Associates have been working on for several years and this letter reflects the safety improvements and operations to Newton Sparta Road.

Mr. McCabe continued: The segment that is a concern to the Commission is the portion of the road improvements within the geo political jurisdiction of the town. I would like to talk about the Section 106 Review. This document is providing a summary of a response from the State Historic Preservation Office to the Department of Transportation that is funding the study for the road improvements that have been proposed. There was a cultural resource investigation undertaken by Richard Grubb & Associates from Cranbury, NJ last year. In that report it outlines an inventory of all the eligible or potential properties that are on the State of National Register of Historic Places and how they may be adversely impacted by the proposed improvements to the Newton Sparta Road. As part of the Section 106 Review, this was developed as a cross checking of a balancing between federally funded projects and the impact it may have on identified cultural resources.

Mr. McCabe continued: The Commission has an obligation to do this because you are a Certified Local Government Program participant and as part of the agreement between the town and the state is that you as a Commission will review any Section 106 activity or project and provide your comments and council to the State Historic Preservation office directly.

Mr. McCabe continued: In this case they are seeking some additional comments on the project that have been indentified through Richard Grubb's report in particular the different aspect of what Grubb feels are the national registered qualified properties. The Commission's responsibility is to take a look at the report that Grubb and Associates had prepared last year knowing what impact it will have on different buildings in our town based on Mr. Stoner's designs and then look

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of the late 1970's inventory of historic places. The inventory will identify buildings, sites or structures that are historically architecturally significant. You will have a small corridor to work in and that is Sparta Avenue. If you look at that section of the inventory and compare that to what the report shows you will have a better understanding of what resources you have in order to make that report back to the SHP's office. By taking a look at Mr. Stoner's design you will know what buildings are involved and then take a look at the report that Richard Grubb & Associates prepared and then take a look at the inventory we have on file in Mrs. Citterbart's and Mrs. Millikin's office and then from that you can make your summary of your own knowledge of the situation on ground and than sending that letter to the SHPO. That is part of the responsibility that you have here. There is nothing complicated about it. It is just saying what we know to exist, these are the documents that we have in hand and this is something we wanted to bring to your attention as part of our obligation of the 106 Review.

Miss Citterbart asked: Who writes the report?

Mr. McCabe stated: It can be written as a Commission. If you have 2 or 3 look at it-write something, and then get it back.

Mr. Cory Stoner, with Harold E. Pellow & Associates gave an overview of what the project is all about. It goes from Woodside Avenue to Hicks Avenue right to the Town border. It is the portion of the roadway known as County Rte. 616. The project will start at Woodside Avenue and go all the way to Rt. 181 in Sparta so it will cover the entire corridor and 3 municipalities. The biggest aspect is they are trying to improve various intersections such as Woodside Avenue, Diller Avenue and Hicks Avenue and the business area down by the Quick Chek. I think the biggest area of where the historic component came in is around the Merriam Gateway. I will get you copies of this.

Mr. Stoner continued to give an overview of what will be done on these roads based on Mr. Grubb's report. As the Commission you will state whether you agree with the report or if you think they missed something.

Mr. McCabe mentioned The Sussex Street potential district does not have an impact. So that does not need to be taken into account. You will only be looking at the section in the Grubb report that pertains to our town.

Mr. Becker asked: Is the section they are talking about in the historic district in this town?

Mr. McCabe stated: No.

Mr. Becker asked: So how do we have any say if it is not in an historic district?

Mr. McCabe stated: Because you have an obligation since 1989 as a contract between the town and State Preservation office to partake in these reviews because you are a Certified Local Government participant and it is your obligation to review these. It doesn't have to be in the historic district. It can be anywhere in the town but it is your obligation to review these.

Mrs. Diglio asked: Are any of the houses in that area eligible for the historic register.

Mr. McCabe stated: I would have to go back and look at the inventory.

Mr. Becker asked: Are these plans that they have now to improve the historic district further along?

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Mr. Stoner stated: Probably not. This job started about 8 or 9 years ago and went dormant for a while but now they have actual funds to go toward a final design. When I see the final design, we will meet with the council and other concerned people. Things change and when it goes to final design it may not look exactly like this but I feel comfortable that the footprint of the improvement proposed here will probably be the same footprint as it will be in the future.

Mr. Becker asked: From Woodside Ave towards the rest of the center of town will that be affected at all?

Mr. Stoner stated: No. We are not going to do anything there. On Woodside Avenue we have proposed a dedicated left hand lane as you are coming towards the center of town to make a left on to Woodside so the road gets wider a little bit to provide the turn because that was an area of a lot of rear end collision situations. Once you go through the intersection we taper back down to meet existing road before you start to go around the bend toward Camp Hill.
Mr. Stoner continued to explain what is being proposed.

Discussion continued with the Commission and Mr. Stoner and Mr. McCabe.

Mr. Stoner stated he will get copies of the report and give it to Mrs. Citterbart.

Mrs. Citterbart asked: When do we need the report in?

Mr. McCabe stated: Within the next few weeks.

Mr. Stoner stated: The sooner you can get it in the better. The County has had it so long they are now stating if they do not do it within a certain time period they will lose their funding. Now it is all a rush.

APPLICATION

HPC-10-2011- Town of Newton, Property Location: Spring Street sidewalks. Applicant requesting placement of benches, fido houses, bike racks and flag poles to the sidewalk.

Cory Stoner of Harold E. Pellow & Associates described enhancements to Spring Street being proposed. One of the items in the circulation plan was to promote walking, pedestrian biking, beautification and provide streetscape improvements.

Mr. Stoner stated: I am here tonight to talk about the proposal they have for benches, bike racks, fido houses (waste receptacle for dogs). There will be four in total of the fido houses. There is a proposal for 11 park benches along Spring Street and for bike racks. There will be 2 flag poles put on the street and it will be steel poles. They will serve a dual purpose. They can be used for either banners or regular flags.

Mr. Steinberg stated his concern that although I think it would be a lovely idea to be able to sit on the benches with my family and have an ice cream, I think they might fill up with the people that stand there now so the patrons will not have a place to sit.

Mrs. Becker stated: It is going to happen but if they are not doing anything wrong then they are welcome to sit there. The store owners are very vigilant. I think the more good we bring in to the town it will weed out the bad. Other towns seem to do it successfully. I see very good value in this.

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Mr. Kaplan asked: Has the town looked into anyone donating the benches? For example in Cape May they have loads of benches with little plaques on them of who donated them.

Mrs. Becker stated: The Chamber talked about it, it is down at Memory Park and it could be done after the fact. It is a possibility.

Ms. Best asked: Is it correct that you addressed all safety concerns so that when you implement all of these items, the benches, the receptacles and signs that there will still be plenty of room on the sidewalks for pedestrian traffic?

Mr. Stoner stated: Yes. We did look at that.

Ms Best asked: The proposed locations are the optimal locations?

Mrs. Stoner stated: Yes.

Discuss ensued on locations of the benches, receptacles and bike racks.

Mrs. Schulte asked: Did the police have any input on the placement?

Mrs. Becker stated: Joe Sapio, street cop on Spring Street, sat in on many discussions. He had a lot of input.

The Commission brought up the speed limit issue on Spring Street.

Discussion ensued on traffic claiming measures.

Discussion ensued on the bench style. The Commission liked the Victorian style bench.

Mr. Kenneth Jaekel, DPW Supervisor, spoke on the maintenance on the benches. Discussion of graffiti on benches ensued.

Mr. Becker opened up this portion of the meeting to the public. With no one stepping forward from the public, this portion closed.

Ms. Best made a motion to accept the application for placement of benches, fido houses, bike racks and flag poles to the sidewalk. Mr. Steinberg seconded the motion.

AYE: Mr. Kaplan, Mr. Steinberg, Mrs. Schulte, Ms. Best, Mr. Becker

Mr. Becker opened up the meeting to the public; with no public stepping forward this portion of the meeting was closed.

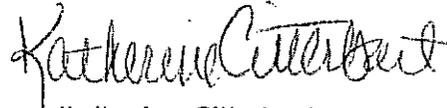
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ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Best made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Schulte seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned with a unanimous "aye" vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM.

The next regular scheduled meeting will be held on July 18, 2011 at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katherine Citterbart". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Katherine Citterbart
Historic Board Secretary