

Town of Clinton, NJ
Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
April 21, 2021
(Held on zoom.us)

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Richard Miller at 6:38 p.m.

Attending Members: Carol Crawford-Jones, Marcia Hansen, Roger Mellick, Richard Miller, Ross Traphagen, and Donna van Weeren.

Approval of March 17, 2021, Minutes: Carol Beder moved to accept the minutes as presented; Donna seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Discussions/Comments

Donna reported that the Land Use board approved for the construction of a warehouse on the north side of Route 31.

Moebus Tract Project on The Town's Side Of The Property Moebus Tract meeting will be held on May 4 for approval. Roger received notification of the meeting as his property is in close proximity to the Tract.

The Clinton House project is progressing.

Carol Beder reported that the Merchants of Hope (town businesses) will welcome Spring with events on May 1 and 2. Visitors will receive a packet of seeds with a purchase, there will be carriage rides, and in-store specials. "Come Together" will resume on Memorial Day weekend.

The Clean Plate will reopen on May 1 serving meals on the patio on weekends. It was noted that virtually all restaurants are having difficulty finding workers.

The Doll House Store will be opening on May 15.

Roger was contacted by an older man in Hampton whose son (who lives in Washington State) found a drawing of the Lehigh Valley Railroad showing a map of Clinton and the former creamery. Our Commission plans to have a copy made for the Red Mill Museum. The drawing, dated 1936, is about 18" x 30" in size.

Donna found a drawing behind a radiator of the depot where Fox Lumber is today. Richard said that the building was the freight station; the passenger station was where Agway was located.

Roger has learned that there is a huge cistern on the left side of his home underneath the kitchen.

Raritan Township Historic Commission requested our assistance with a project to make Old Clinton Road an historic road/trail which runs from Raritan Township along the South Branch to Clinton. The plan to mark the trail with appropriate signage. Ross and Kyle attended the meeting held at the county building in Flemington. A sign maker could map out the history. Another meeting will be held on the 24th to get an understanding of the history of the corridor containing revolutionary and historic homes.

Historic Signage: Since the trail connects to Leigh Street, our discussion included the possibility of extending our historic district and producing plaques depicting the history of the homes to be offered for sale to the homeowners; this will be an interesting project to explore.

No demolition ordinance: Ross investigated towns with a “no demolition” ordinance and obtained samples from Flemington and Westfield. He then sent an e-mail to Rich Phelan and Allison Witt for feedback. Westfield’s is spot-on for Clinton, and an attorney will be consulted. Ross will send us the Westfield ordinance for us to read prior to our next meeting. We would like to present the Clinton draft to the council by the end of May or in June.

Old Business: None

New business: None

Adjournment: Carol Beder motioned to adjourn; motion was seconded by Roger. The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m. Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 19, 2021, at 6:30.