Meeting of the Mendham Township Historic Preservation Committee
Wednesday, May 2, 2018
Town Hall

Members in Attendance: Vanessa Brown (participating by phone,) Corey Holquist, Melissa Saharko, Bob Scialla, James Zemaitis, Patricia Zimmerman

Other Attendees: Amalia Duarte

Patricia Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Last month’s meeting minutes were approved.

**Verizon Wireless Nodes**
Pat spoke with Adrian Berezowsky by phone since the last meeting and updated the group on the latest developments. The New Jersey State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) informed Verizon that trenching the power on Union Schoolhouse Road will require an archeological dig. Adrian said it is unlikely Verizon will pursue it due to costs.

Pat is working to schedule a meeting with Adrian next week so that we may ask him some follow up questions. The group discussed what we’d like to clarify with him – where the poles will be placed, the color of the poles and equipment, and the timeline.

**Blacksmithing Video**
Doug Black’s wife, Natalia, may know where the video is. Danny Williams worked with Doug Black for a time and may be able to recover it from Natalia. Tom Kelly may also be asked to help recover it. However, he is a professional in the field and would probably expect to be paid.

The group agreed to ask Danny Williams to speak to Natalia Black and attempt to recover the video for free before paying for any such attempt.

**District Signs**
The group discussed the state of the historical district signs in town. Pat distributed copies of a sign we’ve used before. The group discussed who would make them and who would install them. Bob has spoken to Dave Reed at the Department of Public Works in the past about installation. The group discussed the cost, if the Township Committee would pay, and if we should fundraise for this effort.

James agreed to do a survey of the historic district signs to determine a) where they currently stand and b) what condition they are in.

**Union Schoolhouse Bridge Sign**
Pat has searched for the original photographs for the bridge sign and has not been able to locate them. Group members suggested the Township library, Borough library, and Ralston Historical Association as possible sources for the original photographs.

**Township Archives**
Melissa shared information about the Township’s archives. Pat and Melissa recently began a search of the archives and explored one filing cabinet. Melissa distributed a list of the contents of that filing cabinet. Melissa and Pat intend to review all of the Township’s archives which are available and create a complete list of its contents. Connie Gates, a previous volunteer, has already done a great job organizing the archives. The group discussed what may be done with the archives once a complete list is created.

**Pitney Farms**
The group discussed the history of Pitney Farms, the Township's history of ownership, and various plans for the site. Amalia noted that there is a new plan for the site soon to come before the Township Committee. The group discussed our desire to tour the site.

**Grant Writing**
The group discussed projects that could be grant funded. We discussed the state of the municipal building and repairs that need to be made. There is a grant offered by Morris County, but the application process is quite difficult. Melissa mentioned that SHPO gives grants, but only to municipalities which are Certified Local Governments. The group agreed that grant writing is a full time job and expressed that having someone with experience in grant writing would be of great benefit. Amalia suggested that a member of the Township administration or member of the community may have some grant writing experience.

**Bud Hall**
Bud Hall has moved away from Mendham, but at one time had a wonderful collection of arrowheads he found in town. The group would like to contact him to perhaps acquire these arrowheads for the Township’s collection.

**Plaque for Ray**
Vanessa is handling this.

**Master Plan Committee**
Pat gave a history of the Township’s Master Plan. The Plan must be revised every ten years and was last revised in 2008. Thus, it is due to be revised again this year. One element is the Historic Preservation Plan. Pat distributed copies to the group. The group discussed what, if any, changes should be made to the Historic Preservation element.

**Miscellaneous**
The group again discussed fundraising and wondered if we could receive donations for projects. Because we are part of the municipality and not a 501(c)(3), donations made to us are made to the township and are not tax deductible.
The next meeting of the Historic Preservation Committee will be on Wednesday, June 6th at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.