

## MINUTES

Mendham Township Historic Preservation Committee  
Monday, February 7, 2022

In attendance: Tom Baio, Susan Luciano, Mirabelle Pierre-Louis, Melissa Saharko, Robert Scialla, Mary Shay-Millea, Helen Wall, James Zemaitis, Patricia Zimmerman. (via Zoom)

**Fundraising Flyer, Pitney Farm event** The Recreation Department is sponsoring a Valentine's Stroll on Friday Feb 11 at 5:30p. Diana Orban Brown will have a table, where an HPC fundraising flyer can be distributed. Melissa screen-shared the flyer she created "Support Mendham History, Join the Honor Roll" which includes photos and what the funds will be used for.

**Hillandale progress** Tom gave an update that the developer will start in April to remove trees for utilities and the road to be paved. Other trees on the property will be removed only after the nesting season for bats, later this year. The mansion and buildings will be demolished this summer. HPC will have a walkthrough in Spring to see what, if any, interior elements can be saved. Pat asked whether the gardens contained any stonework or items worth saving. Tom will look into arranging a walk around the property.

**Birdhouses collection** The five Birdhouses by Richard Hulbert received from Connie Shirtz are in the Town Hall Meeting Room. These depict Ralston General Store, Cider Mill, Brookside Post Office, Community Club, and the Washington Valley Schoolhouse. James asked if they might be installed in the Walled Garden, but because of the materials they are not suitable for the outdoors. Mary proposed having them displayed at the Elementary School and that projects for the students could be created around them. In the interim Melissa will bring in a table for a special display in the Meeting Room. The Observer Tribune will be invited to take photos, one way to advertise HPC's activities and fundraising campaign.

**HPC Budget** The Township's Budget season ends in April and Tom will make sure we meet with the Finance Committee before then. Last year HPC received \$1,000. Pat mentioned there were unexpected out-of-pocket Garden expenses, such as hoses and sprinklers due to drought conditions, which were later reimbursed. HPC will put together a budget by the end of the month to include funds for Pitney Farm, archival storage items and other needs, including contingency funds.

**Seed House update** Anatol Siemieniczuk let us know the windows and doors have been delivered. He will have them installed this spring, after which the exterior will be scraped and repainted. Next will be interior work of covering over the old sheetrock, but we recommend that the electrical work of lights and receptacles be done first. Tom asked about electricity costs. The meter, fuse box and outlet have already been installed and were included in the Pitney Park budget. After the building improvements, the greenhouse area and interior uses and displays will be considered. Melissa will meet with Jason to go over the wish list, which will be part of the spring fundraising campaign.

The Seed House Subcommittee will meet on Saturday February 12 at 9am via Zoom.

**Slettelland proposal** Melissa and Pat drafted a letter to the Township Committee about Erik Slettelland's museum proposal. Melissa will email the letter to our committee for review. James & Melissa will be meeting with Eric the week of February 14.

**Fundraising** James said the spring fundraising campaign will launch in March, culminating with an event in the Walled Garden in May.

**Scanning/Digital Asset Management (SDAM)** Helen gave an update on the survey she and Melissa made of the HPC materials at the Municipal Building. There are several binders with the National Register of Historic Places forms. There is a binder with a Morris County Cultural Resources Survey done in 1986-87 by Acroterion, Historic Preservation Consultants. Melissa will look into copyright issues before scanning. There are two large maps of Mendham done by HPC in 2002 – one showing photographs of Historic Houses and the other Commercial Buildings, and their locations. Pat gave us the Historic Brookside binder put together by Tim Timpson. It contains detailed information on Brookside houses, numerous businesses, newspaper clippings, eyewitness accounts, oral history excerpts, genealogies and an 1868 map from F. W. Beers Atlas. Helen will be in touch with Tim to collect any computer files and photo jpps he has available. Melissa suggested that we might be able to post photographs online, such as a Flickr group, to invite tagging by the Mendham community.

SDAM plans to visit the Elementary School on Saturday, February 12, to survey HPC file cabinets.

#### **Collections Management and Space Planning (CMSP)**

We discussed the need for obtaining space for the HPC Committee and its collections and archive. The Township Library also has archives and special collections, now stored within individual library offices. There may be a potential for HPC and the Library to collaborate, including community space. CMSP could work on putting a plan together, an HPC vision, to propose to the Township, with respect to the Municipal offices renovation plans.

The CMSP subcommittee will meet on Saturday, February 26, via Zoom.