

Mendham Township Historic Preservation Committee
Meeting April 3, 2019 6:45 p.m.
Municipal Building

Attendees: Cole Kiefer, Madelynn McIlhane, Matthew Messina, Melissa Saharko, Bob Scialla, Pat Zimmerman

BUDGET

The Township Committee approved \$5000 for signs. This will be divided between the historic preservation, recreation, and environmental committees. Additionally, we have received \$500 for our annual operating expenses. Pat has spent \$48 on a recorder and asked for permission to spend some additional money on office supplies. The committee approved her request.

WASHINGTON VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Madelynn attended a meeting of the association and briefed the committee on its business. The WVCA is interested in attracting more visitors to the schoolhouse and we discussed various ways that might be done. They will host a 150th birthday party this summer which they hope will attract new interest in the schoolhouse.

Sue Young, president of WVCA, emphasized Madelynn's observations. Sue gave us the following dates to take note of. She asked that we forward them to Melanie Politi for inclusion in the township e-newsletters:

April 27th, Clean up day, 9-11 am

May 3rd, 7:30 p.m. – annual meeting, followed by presentation from a historical reenactor

June 2nd, Strawberry Festival

HPC ORDINANCE

Pat shared a letter she has drafted to the Township Committee regarding the importance of strengthening our ordinance regarding demolitions. The letter describes homes that have been saved through HPC intervention and those of importance that have been lost. The committee gave a few suggestions and approved the letter.

PITNEY PARK SEED HOUSE

Bob created architectural drawings of the seed house and shared them with the committee. We discussed what part of the structure remains and its possible uses. Bob indicated that the roof probably needs to be replaced and the foundation needs repair. The cold frames were historically used to plant seedlings and control temperature. The committee agreed that it would be wonderful to use these as a garden again, planting species that do not require much maintenance.

NEW BUSINESS

Melissa brought several items from the archives to show everyone. The documents date from the early 1700s to early 1900s. She explained the importance of and concerns with digitization of these items. Matthew may be interested in working on some of the documents as a side project. Because the committee enjoyed this so much, Melissa plans to bring other items from the archives to the next meeting.