

January 17, 2017

The January 17, 2017 meeting of the Open Space Committee was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Andy Parke, followed by a pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Present: Ron Hayes, Andy Parke, Richard Rosenblum, Carren Thomas, Joseph Watters, Matt Wielgus, Roberta Kugelmeyer
Excused: Glenn Todd, Jim Watters
Guest: Dr. Shane Fitzpatrick

Minutes

On the second page of the December 20, 2016 minutes the name of Stephen Love is incorrectly spelled Steven. In the Mt. Bethel Church portion of the minutes it is stated the “electric lines have been run to the building” and that should read “the electric lines have not been installed yet, only the conduit”. It was MOVED by Mr. Hayes to accept and approve the minutes of the December meeting as corrected, seconded by Ms. Thomas. All in favor.

Reorganization

Mr. Parke nominated James Watters as Chair and Mr. Todd as Vice Chair; Mr. Parke was nominated as historian. It was MOVED by Mr. Hayes to accept and approve the nominations for 2017, seconded by Ms. Thomas; all in favor.

Mt. Bethel Church

Mr. Parke reported there is not much going on now. He will meet with the architect in a week or two to decide what to do next. Joseph Watters has received his proposal, then it is five weeks before we get his site plan. The money from WCCHC has already been received. There is a new supervisor for the Mansfield Road Department, hopefully he will get the fence cleaned up in the spring, then clear brush and chip. A welder has been contacted to repair the fence. Mr. Watters said Mansfield is in line to have a representative on the Municipal Charities board, and he appointed Ms. Thomas as the representative.

Rockport Game Farm

Mr. Hayes reported he was assured by the state that the farm would not close. He wants to reach out to organizations such as the Canal Society, Historical Society and County for input and support, such as offering use of a building on site for Canal Society offices. Ms. Kugelmeyer offered support and suggestions for Canal restoration.

Beattystown Mill

Dr. Shane Fitzpatrick was introduced; he is the owner of the Mill and reached out to this Committee for support and help with his restoration effort. The property includes the mill, general store, and the miller's house on approximately two acres; the Mill needed immediate attention. Dr. Fitzpatrick extended to this Committee an invitation to an off-site meeting at the Mill for a tour of the property and the Mill interior, possibly in April. Inside the Mill reflects the influence of Frank Lloyd Wright design; the windows needed replacement. A hurricane almost

flooded the building. Permits were obtained from the NJDEP to do necessary restoration and preservation. The in-ground pool had to be removed. The Mill was constructed in the 18th century; artifacts were found in the pool removal process, and Dr. Fitzpatrick now has a museum on the fifth floor. Some of the artifacts date back to 8,000 years ago, some of the bones unearthed appear to be human. This is not a working mill, there are actually two mills here. There is falling water within the building and a self-contained water system within the race; the encased race area is in the stream with framed arch over the top. Water comes in under the floor, flows under the house, and is piped back into the circulating system. There are no wheels turning but water is running through the mill where there is one of the best preserved functioning turbines. Dr. Fitzpatrick has a copy of an old, somewhat primitive map showing archaeological sites in the area. The property has a general store, miller's house and the mill which are on the national registry but the map showed only "historic designation" confirmed in state records. This is historically protected but the setbacks from the road go into the building; the state has control of the road width but a guard rail is needed. There are no sidewalks; "no trespassing" signs have been erected.

Mr. Parke offered thanks to Dr. Fitzpatrick for the presentation. Mr. Rosenblum suggested this site would be a great addition to a Mansfield historic tour, something that could include the game farm.

It was MOVED to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. by Mr. Rosenblum.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Pante, Clerk

**Next meeting date:
February 21, 2017**