

## Historic Sites Committee of Warren, NJ

February 9, 2023

**Members attending:** Kari Quirós, Leslie Ellerbusch, Rich Disano, Christy Cwynar, Debra Rebetje, Susie Boyce, Karl Horster, Greg Fitzgerald, Alan Siegel, Rory Britt, Candace Benzel, Michael François (via phone)

Members Excused: John Lindner, Erica Sbarra

Minutes were read and corrected.

### New Business:

- A. New Township Committee liaison is Dan Croson, secondary liaison is Gary Dinardo.
- B. Kirch Ford House
  - a. The basement light is still on.
  - b. The roof was cleaned and the moss removed.
    - i. A couple of shakes are loose and need to be looked at.
- C. Baptist Meeting House
  - a. Work will start in 6 weeks to raise the curb to keep water out.
    - i. The mounting block by the curb should not be disturbed by workers.
  - b. John, Alan and Greg took the enlarged photo which Leslie donated to the Meeting House and mounted it onto the wall.
  - c. One of the organs need to be removed (Township property). Public Works will be asked to move it to the Moorecraft Farm.
  - d. Junk in the balcony
    - i. Fabric from the pews should be saved.
    - ii. Trash will be left in a pile in the front of the Meeting House for the DPW to collect.
- D. The Town's Master Plan does not include preservation of historic sites.
  - a. The HSC needs to give John Chadwick on the Planning Board the information about what the Committee wants to do.
- E. Grants
  - a. The option to have a grant writer has been approved.
    - i. Wayne McKabe – historic preservation consultant
    - ii. Julie Herbstman (former HSC member) does grant writing for Columbia.

- b. Adaptive reuse grants are preferred.
  - c. Grant to improve walking trails to the Grotto as well as restore the Grotto.
  - d. There is a new round of grants coming out.
    - i. Chip grants in April
    - ii. County Historical Incentive Program.
    - iii. Grant for archive
    - iv. Rory to email Mark Crane to ask for the plans.
- F. Lists of historic sites
- a. The list from 1989 can be used as a base.
  - b. Susie provided a list from the 1976 Bicentennial.
  - c. Warren A-Z has a list of about 80 sites.
  - d. Greg has the list of the building which are 100+ years old.
  - e. Alan has a copy of the Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission's list.
  - f. Michael will combine all the lists and cross-reference them via Excel.
- G. Hoffheimer Trail
- a. Rejuvenate the trail and possibly move it closer to the mausoleum which might reduce vandalism.
  - b. Earth Day cleanup (HSC or DPW)
- H. Mausoleum
- a. The Rec Commission saw the state of the mausoleum and were shocked.
  - b. Lock mausoleum to keep people out.
  - c. Sand blast the mausoleum stone to remove graffiti and restore it.
  - d. Alan to send DPW a photo of the garbage around the mausoleum.
- I. Egg-o-Mat was in the Echoes-Sentinel and on News 12.
- a. The HSC needs to get the work done to store the exterior and decide where it will go for the long term.
- J. The corn sheller and the sprayer pump are exposed to the elements.
- K. The Schmalz Shed needs to be moved to the Wagner Arboretum.

L. 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

- a. The County Commissioners want a big event and want to raise funds.
- b. Historical Master Plan
  - i. Research ways families relate to the Anniversary.
  - ii. The Warren Library would like to have 2-3 programs on Warren's history.

Meeting adjourned at 9:08pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kari Quiros, Rec. Sec