

**HOPE TOWNSHIP
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
October 21, 2013**

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Robert May.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT:

The secretary read the "Open Public Meetings Act" Under the provisions of the "Open Public Meetings Act", adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by publishing notice in the "Star Gazette" and by posting notices in the Hope Post Office and on the Township Bulletin Board all on February 1, 2013.

Present at this meeting were: Chairman, Robert May, Vice Chairman, Gerry Manger and members: Mary Billow, Darren Koeppen, Lacey McDonough and Julie Steven. Absent were members: Verity Fox, Jane Guthrie and Henry Morgan.

MINUTES The minutes of the meeting of August 12, 2013 have been distributed to the members prior to this meeting. A motion was made by Billow, seconded by Steven to approve the minutes as submitted. By voice vote all were in favor with McDonough abstaining.

APPLICATIONS - 13-12 Hope Moravian Distillery This application was for information and did not need approval from the Commission. Since the work was done with grant monies, the work needs to comply to historic restrictions set out by the State. The secretary noted that she had requested to have a tour of the Distillery building for the HPC members. Koonz responded that he thought that was good idea but he would like to wait until the "bullet list" is completed with the contractor.

13-13 Inn at Millrace Pond This application was for a roof to be replaced/repared on the one accessory building on the property. A lengthy discussion was held regarding the fact that the work was already done. The secretary noted that she spoke with both the contractor and the manager of the Inn and reported that it was an emergency. The slate roof was damaged in the last storm, rain was getting in and the slates were falling into the building. The fact that the soffits, at this point, were left untreated or unpainted and the plywood could be seen was discussed. The Commission members asked if a letter could be sent asking if that area could be painted so that the plywood would not be visible. A motion was made to approve this application as submitted adding that the application was made after the fact and with the stipulation that the soffits are painted either the barn red or white, so that the bare plywood is not visible, by McDonough, seconded by Koeppen. Roll Call: McDonough-yes, Koeppen-yes, Steven-yes, Billow-yes, Manger-yes, May-yes. The approved application was signed and sealed by the Chairman.

APPLICATIONS AT DEADLINE There were no applications reviewed in October of 2011.

NEW BUSINESS The “Penny a View” books were handed around to the Commission members. These are books that are compiled by Wayne and Marge McCabe of postcards of the town. Wayne McCabe is the historical go-to person on the Distillery project. All thought that it was a great idea and might be a good joint fund raiser in the future.

The secretary asked the Commission members if they could help the Township Committee by coming up with the verbiage for a plaque that will be placed on the distillery building at its completion. Bob May offered to take a shot at it and Gerry Manger offered to help him with it.

May then noted that the stone wall around the cemetery was just about completed, including the caps. He added that it was done by his son, Jason and Tom Thurgood. Billow felt that a thank you should be sent to Jason May for all of the time and energy he put into getting that project done. May then added that there is grant money available for this type of restoration – the problem is that no one currently owns the cemetery. The members questioned whether there were any vacant plots left in the cemetery. May noted that there is some open ground in the front section of the cemetery but he indicated that there is just an absence of headstones – he’s not sure if that means there are no graves in that area, or if the headstones are just gone.

The secretary advised the Commission that the Township Committee responded to the pink ribbon request letter, that was part of the month’s correspondence, that they would be allowed to place pink ribbons on any Township owned sign or property. There have, since, been pink ribbons placed around the village for the month of October.

Another discussion followed regarding the sandwich board signs in the village. Some of them (two of them specifically) are placed right in the sidewalk area preventing, not only people from walking, but also strollers and wheelchairs from accessing the ramp up from the road to the sidewalk. The Commission asked the secretary to send a letter to the new Zoning Officer and cc the Township Committee about this problem to see if there is anything that can be done to make these businesses comply with the ordinance (Ordinance # 20-24.5:d-3 pg 2068.7 in the code book). McDonough noted that she would be stopping in to see the building inspector on Wednesday and if the zoning officer were still in, she would mention the sandwich board signs as well.

It was also noted that the Hope Junction Antique building looks great with the new paint colors. All agreed.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business before the Commission, a motion was made by Billow, seconded by Manger, to adjourn the meeting. By voice vote, all were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Gabel, secretary