

## **TOWNSHIP OF MOORESTOWN APPEARANCE COMMITTEE**

Minutes for the Meeting of January 19, 2022

**Present:** Steve Chepurny, Karen Chigounis, Pat Canton, Annette Maguire, Wayne Urffer, Gina Zegel, Melissa McGrath, Dave Donachy, Scott Hearn, D'Arcy Dispirito

**Township Representative:** Patty Muscella and Nancy Jamanow

**Council Representative:** Sue Mamarella

**Call to Order:** Steve welcomed everyone and asked Patty to take attendance.

**Election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary:** Annette nominated Steve for president. Pat seconded the nomination. Roll was taken by Patty. All approved. Karen nominated Annette for vice-chairperson. Pat seconded the nomination for Annette. All approved. Karen and Melissa declined the nomination for secretary. Annette nominated D'Arcy for secretary. Melissa seconded the nomination. All approved.

**New Member:** Steve welcomed Scott Hearn to our committee. He has a background in history which will be valuable to our committee.

**Establishment of Meeting Schedule and Times for 2022:** Steve made a motion to approve the schedule for 2022. Gina seconded the motion, and all approved.

**Consideration of Minutes:** Steve asked to review the minutes for December 15, 2021. Steve made a motion to approve the minutes. Karen and Annette seconded the motion. All approved.

**New Business:** For future reference: Steve asked, when possible, to please contact Patty about 48 hours in advance of our meetings with comments; so, Patty can have answers researched for our meeting.

**Lenola Town Center – Signage and Lighting:** Steve turned the meeting over to Nancy and Vittorio Anapete, engineer for Taylor. In 2018 we received a \$1 million

grant for improvements to Lenola. They are in the final design phase. There will be a dedicated bike lane on Camden Ave., a landscaped median, brick asphalt crosswalks, ornamental lighting, trees, and benches bike racks, and garbage cans. The new lighting will incorporate flag poles and will accommodate Christmas decorations.

Steve asked the Lenola Committee to present their ideas. David Hess said they had 2-3 public meetings with planners. They emphasized that it is hard to cross the street, and that there is very limited parking. They wanted to focus on safe crosswalks and bike paths. They suggested narrowing the lanes, and they requested plantings. They would like a pocket park near the bus stop. They thought a display board with activities could require too much maintenance. The park could possibly have a display board explaining some history.

John Logue is part of the West Moorestown Task Force. He received a memo from Vittorio on Dec. 15 regarding light pole banners and the train theme. He was wondering if the Cowperthwaite House profile could be applicable to signage. He asked about the gateway signage welcoming people to Moorestown (Not Lenola) which is in front of Rita's Water Ice. He said that the sign had been provided by MIA not that many years ago. Would new signage match this? He was questioning the use of a lot of directional signs.

Right now the county does not want banners across the street. Moorestown is pursuing that. Steve favors directional signs, but not the bulletin board idea which would be a burden maintenance wise.

Steve asked if the planted area was going to be irrigated. He felt that it would not be reasonable to expect the Garden Club to maintain this. He asked about the lifespan of the brick inset area. That is supposed to be 10 years. Scott commented that directional markers help create integration within the town. Scott asked if barriers could be erected to protect the bike lane. There is no room. The bike path is supposed to be 6' wide. He asked who will be researching the history. Possibly our committee can provide verbiage.

Dave Verdia works with Vittorio. They will prepare distances on signage which will be discrete and not for cars.

Michael Babcock suggested including the Community House and Wesley Bishop Field on the directional signs. He suggested benches for the park which will be on the grounds of the former Getty Station.

Milt McFalls is on this committee and is the vice-president of MIA. He will take ideas back to them.

Nancy thanked everyone for their great feedback and said they will wait for feedback from MIA. John Logue asked when the public will know. Vittorio will be presenting in March.

Steve said he will compile comments from our committee.

Sue asked if Milt and the MIA will work on historical notes. Nancy said she would be looking into history. Vittorio said he has a report from 2004.

Gina Zegel said that maybe the Garden Club would maintain the median for a couple of years until the plants are established.

Nancy thanked everyone.

Gina asked about the train station, and Steve said it exists.

**Development Application:** None

**Demolition:** 740 Stanwick Road: Jillian Staffiera, owner, was asked by Steve why she was demolishing the home at this address. Jillian explained that her great grandmother, mother, and she had grown up there. She explained that it does not fit the needs of her large family. It needs too many improvements: air conditioning, new windows, more bedrooms and bathrooms, and plumbing updates to make it financially feasible. Steve commented that it is a spectacular looking stone home. Dave Donachy asked if it could be moved. Jillian had not considered that option. Family is living there and are supportive of building a new

home on the site. D'Arcy asked if they would consider building next door, which is not an option.

Gina said it will be sad to lose such a beautiful home and asked if we could see the replacement plans, which is not a requirement. Annette asked if her architect could consider an addition and remodeling.

Annette made a motion to deny the demolition until we receive more information. Gina seconded the motion and all approved. Karen wanted it made clear that our committee has no right to approve or deny requests from applicants. Only the zoning and planning boards have control.

The site is listed as 3 lots. If they were to be subdivided, they would require a variance. Two lots can be divided immediately because they are conforming.

Our committee has no say over what will be constructed. We can only make recommendations.

**Signs:** Steve sent in our comments about Chateau de Main.

**Historic Preservation:** Sue said demolition of this structure cannot be stopped unless it is a designated structure. They will be meeting with council and the township manager working on tax abatements. There are 130 people on the various township committees. They will be looking into the functioning of these committees. Sue said hopefully the demolition of the home on Stanwick will be reconsidered.

**Goals and Actions for 2022:** This has been received and approved and Sue will post it.

**Public Comments:** None

Steve asked for a motion to adjourn our meeting. D'Arcy made a motion to adjourn our meeting which was seconded by Karen @ 9:07

Next Meeting: February 17, 2022 @ 7PM on line

Respectfully submitted by Pat Canton