

East Brandywine Historical Commission Meeting
May 13, 2020

Present: John Black, Jim Buczala, Sharon Buczala, Francis Taraschi, Sean Alvarez, Mark Myers, and Bob Renken

Also Present: Luke Reven, Matthew Stevenson

Meeting opened at 7:09 pm; Adjourned at 8:37 pm

428 Mercer Drive (HR-88)

Building permit for Deck

Class I Historic Resource circa 1800

- A front porch not be out of character for a home from this era
- A photo from the 1950's shows the house a porch on the front and side
- The owner wants to add a porch on the front (Bondsville Rd. side) of house (38'X8')
 - 5 posts, metal standing seam roof (burgundy), no railing (deck not more than 30" from ground)
 - Materials
 - Posts will be turned or tapered and made of a weather resistant material
 - Synthetic flooring
- Mark M. recommendations:
 - Simple square posts (about 4")
 - Engineered wood instead of pressure treated; Francis T agrees that pressure treated wood should not be used.
 - Would like to see more detail (e.g., cornice detail) and elevation drawings of the front and side of the design.
- John B. has asked the owner for more information:
 - Materials to be used
 - Drawings – front, side, cross section with dimensions and showing existing features
 - How will porch be attached to house? Concern that the stone would be damaged.
- HC members favor a simple post with a chamfered edges (no bigger than 5" square)
- It was agreed that the HC needs more information to render a decision and will hold a special meeting of the HC to accommodate Mr. Stevenson. Mr. Stevenson agreed to a 15 day extension of the 15 day review period provided to the HC in order to allow time for his provision of additional information and for the HC to do further review.
- John B. will refer owner to appropriate Township code and summarize HC concerns. Mark M. willing to share plans he has for a porch he did for another home.

Minutes of previous month's meetings

The minutes for the March meeting were approved as amended. There was no meeting in April.

White Acres, 350 Creek Road (HR-52)

Scott Simpson has submitted a demolition permit to remove porches and additions

- Four additions to the original house are identified for removal on the plans provided with the Building Permit.
- Working with John Milner Associates, an architect with significant experience in working with historic buildings.
- HC members feel that removal of the additions proposed in the Permit would be a benefit to the Historic Resource. Further, the items to be removed constitute less than 50% of the façade and are not original to it.

Locust Knoll Farm, 1000 Horseshoe Pike (HR-78)

- Mark M. has no detailed update on the current status on the project. He reported what he knows:
 - Mr. Thal is focusing work on the house to make it water tight.
 - He is getting the roof closed up (it was in very bad condition).
 - He has crafted window sashes (made from mahogany) to replace all the windows.
 - He will move on to the barn once he has finished addressing concerns with the house.
 - Barn is currently not receiving much attention.
 - Masonry walls will need some work when he gets to it; Mark is not concerned with potential damage to the masonry if the barn collapses.

Dowlin House, 205 Township Road (HR-45)

John B. stopped by, structure has a roof but no singles yet or windows.

Weaver Tract, 1234 Horseshoe Pike (HR-170)

The Land Development Plan has been given preliminary approval.

Recorded Interviews

- Transcriptions done and edited. Allie transcribed and Carol edited.
- Would like to post on Township web site. Third parties mentioned in interviews, would there be any issues? Luke R. would run by legal before posting. If there is a concern, perhaps a caveat stating that the contents do not reflect the views of the Township?
- Will need to have a release from each interviewee on file (releases were obtained for each of the interviews).
- John will have Carol send transcripts to Luke.

Planning Commission

Nothing to report

EB Township Updates

Staff has returned but building still closed to the public.

Action Steps:

John B. – follow-up with homeowner of HR-88, will send appropriate Township code and summarize HC concerns. Obtain requested information regarding porch on HR-88 and distribute to HC; set up special meeting of the HC.

John B – work with Luke R. towards posting recorded interviews on Township website.

Mark M – write a letter to document the current condition of the Locust Knoll Farm barn and include the written report from Mr. Riehl.

Jim B., Francis T, Mark M. – Work with owner of 11 Highspire re: restoration of outhouse.

Jim B. – Work with Bob R. on communication with DCCC re: marker.

Sharon B. & Bob R. – Continue to research HR-55.

Carol S. and Allie P. – Continue interviews with longtime residents.

Sharon B. – continue to work on Archives