

**Vernon Township Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 2, 2025**

Statement of Compliance

Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231 P.L., 1975, adequate notice as defined in Section 3D of Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, had been forwarded to the New Jersey Herald on January 2, 2025. Notice is also posted on the bulletin board and filed with the office of the Township Clerk.

Roll Call

Jodi White-Bearstler	P
Liam Clancy	A
Ariel Lazo	A
Jamie Rickey	P
Harris Salomon	P
Lisaann Permunion	P

Harris Salomon announced that Ariel Lazo has resigned from the commission due to work obligations and health reasons.

REORGANIZATION

The commission nominated the chairperson and vice-chairperson for 2025. Jodi White-Bearstler moved to nominate Lisaann VanBlarcom Permunion for chairperson. Lisaann VanBlarcom Permunion seconded the motion. Harris Salomon moved to nominate himself for chairperson, but there was no second. A roll call vote was taken for Lisaann VanBlarcom Permunion for chair.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes – Jodi-White Bearstler, Lisaann Permunion, Harris Salomon, and Jamie Rickey

Nays – None

Lisaann VanBlarcom Permunion moved to nominate Lee Clancy for chairperson. Jodi White-Bearstler second the motion. A roll call vote was taken for Lee Clancy for vice-chairperson.

Ayes – Jodi-White Bearstler, Lisaann Permunion, and Jamie Rickey

Nays – Harris Salomon

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The meeting was opened to the public. All were in favor, but seeing no public it was closed.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Motion – Jodi White-Bearstler

Second – Lisaann Permunion

Roll Call Vote

Ayes – Lisaann Permunion Harris Salomon, Jamie Rickey, and Jodi-White Bearstler

Nays – None

OLD BUSINESS

1. BOE Building

Commission members noted that the BOE building on Route 515 has been demolished. Former chairperson Harris Salomon had written to Land Use Administrator Kim Decker for a cease and desist, asking that demolition not take place before the HPC has the opportunity to review the demolition permit. However, the demolition had moved forward.

2. Legends Resort

Mayor Anthony Rossi arrived at the meeting at about 8:15. Harris Salomon questioned the mayor about the current status of ownership of the resort. Mayor Rossi said that Charles Everhardt was still pursuing financing and the resort had not fully changed hands yet. The mayor said he questions

whether the deal might fall through. Harris Salomon stated he would like to pursue nomination of the resort for township landmark status on the Master Plan. Commissioners Jodi White-Bearstler and Lisaann Van Blarcom Permunion reminded him that the commission had decided at the December 5, 2024, meeting to postpone nomination of the resort at this time.

3. Hinchman-Rickey Farm

Jamie Rickey presented email from Will Brown, the owner of the farm. In the email, Mr. Brown said he was not opposed to giving the property township landmark status on the Master Plan. The property and structures on the farm are already listed on the New Jersey Register of Historic Places. Jamie Rickey will prepare the township nomination.

4. Vernon Crossing Road Train Station

Harris Salomon will prepare the nomination for the train station, known today as The Tracks Deli.

5. HPC Secretary Search

Temporary volunteer secretary Jessi Paladini announced that she had spoken with Debbie Coulson, who had previously been the secretary for the HPC and also for the Environmental Commission. Ms. Coulson agreed to serve as secretary for the HPC. At this time, the commission asked the mayor if there would be funding for the HPC to pay the secretary. The mayor committed to allocating \$2,000 for the HPC for 2025. After a brief discussion, commission members agreed to pay Ms. Coulson \$20 an hour to attend meetings, write the monthly minutes, and anything else the commission should seek of the secretary.

Motion – Jodi-White Bearstler

Second – Lisaann VanBlarcom Permunion

Roll Call Vote

Ayes – Lisaann VanBlarcom Permunion, Harris Salomon, Jamie Rickey, Jodi-White Bearstler

Nays – None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Public Hearing – Perry Farm

The commission held a public hearing for the nomination of the Perry Farm. A certified letter was sent to owner Dale Kelly notifying him of the public hearing, but Mr. Kelly was not present at the hearing. While Mr. Kelly said he did not object to the listing of the property on the Master Plan, he said he was demolishing the house on the property because a tree fell on it and the insurance company will no longer insure the house. On a motion by Jodi White-Bearstler, the meeting was open to the public for comment. Lisaann VanBlarcom Permunion seconded the motion. Seeing no members of the public present, the meeting was closed to the public and the commission proceeded with the nomination for recommendation to the Land Use Board and the Town Council to give the property landmark designation and list it on the township Master Plan. Jodi White-Bearstler moved to proceed with the nomination. Lisaann VanBlarcom Permunion seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes – Lisaann Permunion Harris Salomon, Jamie Rickey, and Jodi-White Bearstler

Nays – None

2. Lisaann VanBlarcom Permunion brought up the Stewart House for landmark preservation. She said she would write the nomination. Jodi White-Bearstler moved to go forward with pursuing the landmark nomination. Lisaann VanBlarcom Permunion seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes – Lisaann VanBlarcom Permunion, Harris Salomon, Jamie Rickey, and Jodi-White Bearstler

Nays – None

3. Resolution 25-01: Schedule of Meetings for 2025

Motion – Jamie Rickey

Second – Jodi-White Bearstler

Roll Call Vote

Ayes – Lisaann VanBlarcom Permunian, Harris Salomon, Jamie Rickey, Jodi-White Bearstler
Nays – None

4. Resolution 25-02: Designation of Official Newspapers for 2025

The New Jersey Herald and the New Jersey Sunday Herald were designated the official newspapers for 2025 for the HPC.

Motion – Jodi-White Bearstler

Second – Lisaann VanBlarcom Permunian

Roll Call Vote

Ayes – Lisaann Permunian, Harris Salomon, Jamie Rickey, Jodi-White Bearstler

Nays – None

5. Review of Land Use Board Applications

None

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Jamie Rickey said he wanted to apologize for getting angry and walking out of the December 5, 2024, meeting. He said it was inappropriate and it would not happen again.

ADJOURNMENT

The HPC meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. on a motion by Jodi White-Bearstler and a second by Lisaann VanBlarcom Permunian. All were in favor.

The next meeting of the Vernon Township Historic Preservation Commission will be on February 6, 2025, at 7 p.m.



Transcribed by Jessica Paladini
Recording Secretary Pro Tem