

**Vernon Township Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 7, 2024**

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 September 5, 2024. Notice is also posted on the bulletin board and filed with the office of the Township Clerk.

Roll Call

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Harris Salomon opened the meeting to the public for matters on the agenda. No one from the public came forward at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Perry Farm

Lisaann Permunion discussed her nomination of the Perry Farm for historic designation and listing in the township Master Plan. After a brief discussion, Ms. Permunion moved to forward the nomination. Lee Clancy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Motion – Lisaann Permunion
Second – Lee Clancy

Roll Call Vote

Ayes – Lisaann Permunion Lee Clancy, Harris Salomon, Jamie Rickey, Ariel Lazo
Nays – None

2. Recording Secretary

Commissioners spoke about the need for a recording secretary and said they want to start recording their meetings as well. They asked Jessi Paladini, who was in attendance at the meeting, if she would show them how to use the recording equipment. Ms. Paladini was hesitant to use the township equipment without official authorization from the commission as she was neither the recording secretary nor a member of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC). She said she would be willing to serve as their recording secretary, free of charge, but only for the months of November and December. Ms. Paladini said it was necessary for them to advertise for the position of secretary, and they could hire a secretary at their January meeting when the mayor and council allocate a budget for the HPC. The HPC customarily receives between \$2,000-\$2,500 annually for their budget. This money is spent on the salary for the recording secretary, for any necessary advertising, and for historic markers. The last two historic markers the HPC put up through this allocation was for the historic Glenwood district on Pochuck Valley Farm property and for Kings Highway on Route 94 at Heaven Hill Farm.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Appointment of Temporary Recording Secretary

Lisaann Permunion made a motion to appoint Jessi Paladini as temporary recording secretary for the HPC. Ariel Lazo seconded the appointment. All were in favor. Ms. Paladini stipulated she does not want to be paid for it and is doing it as a volunteer until the commission finds a secretary by their January 2025 meeting.

Motion – Lisaann Permunionian
Second – Ariel Lazo

Roll Call Vote

Ayes – Lee Clancy, Ariel Lazo, Jamie Rickey, Harris Salomon, Lisaann Permunionian

Nays – None

4. Nominations for Local Historic Designation

In addition to the Perry Farm, the commission agreed to nominate Legends Resort and the Hinchman-Rickey Farm. They also discussed the Indian Trading Post based on the recommendation of Lisaann Permunionian, who had spoken with Shawn MaZur about it. Harris Salomon suggested nominating the train station on Vernon Crossing Road. Each person nominating a site will do the research, complete the nomination form, and bring their findings to the HPC meeting.

Mayor Anthony Rossi entered the meeting and joined the commission at the table in discussion.

5. Legends Resort – Mayor Rossi spoke about the new owners of Legends and their financial situation. Harris Salomon and Jamie Rickey entered into a discussion about the resort with the mayor. The mayor presented documentation showing the signature of Charles Everhardt as the new owner. No arrears taxes on the resort have been paid. The mayor said Everhardt is still trying to get financing and expressed uncertainty about the deal going through. He said if the deal falls through, he has other prospective buyers who would demolish the building. He recommended the commission not proceed with historic designation of the resort. Upon that recommendation, the commission put the historic designation on hold.

6. Approval of October Minutes

There were no minutes for approval.

7. REVIEW OF LAND USE BOARD APPLICATIONS

There were no Land Use Board applications for review.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Jamie Rickey had a number of things he wanted to discuss, namely operations and protocol of the commission. He circulated several documents, including the procedure for nominating a site for historic designation. The commission discussed the process and realized there are many steps between the initial nomination by vote of the commission to completion and approval of the Land Use Board and the Township Council.

ADJOURNMENT

Lisaann Permunionian moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Lee Clancy seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

The HPC meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

The next meeting of the Vernon Township Historic Preservation Commission will be on December 5, 2024 at 7 p.m.



Transcribed by Jessica Paladini
Recording Secretary Pro Tem