

HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
02OCTOBER2017 MEETING MINUTES

In attendance was Larry Peseski (Chair), Nancy Ruddle (Vice Chair), Scott Minnucci, Marnie Newman and Patrick Pastella

Absent from the meeting: Christine Terranova (HARB Administrator) and Noel Barrett (Liaison)

I. Call to Order

Chair Peseski called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and noted that H.A.R.B. did have a quorum.

II. Approval of Minutes – July 10th, 2017 and September 11, 2017

Upon a Motion by Larry Peseski, seconded by Scott Minnucci, H.A.R.B. unanimously agreed to approve the minutes of July 10, 2017.

Approval of the September 11th, 2017 minutes was postponed until the next available HARB meeting.

III. Old Business

A. Action on Simon Howells
3764 Aquetong Road, Carversville, PA
(Carversville Historic District)
HARB Plan Number 2017-08-D

Upon a Motion by Larry Peseski, seconded by Nancy Ruddle, it was unanimously agreed to recommend issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness to TMP#41-004-045, 3764 Aquetong Road, to install a wood picket fence on the property as depicted in a site drawing, date stamped September 25, 2017. Fence will be no higher than 4' high using 1-inch x 4-inch boards spaced no less than 2.5 inches apart, with a spear shaped tip design top, painted white with 4-inch x 4-inch posts to be slightly shorter than the top of the picket, roughly 8' apart. Posts to be facing the inside of the yard around entire perimeter. There will be no finials on the top of the post, or post caps. There will be three gates, all of the same material, spacing, color and height as fence and positioned as depicted on the site drawing. One gate to be at the patio entrance to be 4' wide; second gate will be along the front fence of the property to be 6' wide (two 3' sections); a third gate to be 6' wide (two 3' sections) will be in the rear section of the fence by the barn. All hardware, strap hinges, thumb latches will be black and per the application sample as presented.

IV. Chairman's Topics

A. Volunteer to attend the next Board of Supervisors meeting

Chair Peseski volunteered to attend the Board of Supervisors' meeting on October 17th, 2017.

It has come to the attention of HARB that the Bucks County Commissioners have approved a contract with Doylestown based Cherry Weber & Associates to design and engineer the rehabilitation of Bucks County Bridge No. 172, which carries Old Carversville Road over the Paunacussing Creek in Carversville, just off of Fleecydale Road. The bridge is in the historic district of Carversville. It is HARB's concern that the rehabilitation of this 1931 bridge is done so in the highest spirit of historic preservation. In addition to the rehabilitation of the bridge, HARB is also formally asking for PennDOT to evaluate why nearly fourteen signs have been placed on each side of the bridge within a distance of 100 feet, each direction. HARB feels it is inappropriate, excessive and grossly effects the view scape of the bridge area.

Upon a Motion by Larry Peseski, seconded by Patrick Pastella, it was unanimously agreed to recommend that Solebury Township administration establish and maintain contact with the appropriate authorities to include the Bucks County Commissioners, PennDOT and Cherry Weber & Associates and to make its best efforts to influence the design so that the bridge and the ingress and egress sections maintain historic characteristics; and provide HARB with ongoing updates.

HARB applicants and their contractors/professional consultants go through extensive application preparation, pre-HARB meeting exercises and in most cases attend the HARB public meeting. It is common knowledge that the applicant and their professional consultants are encouraged to attend the supervisors meeting to hear final disposition of the HARB recommendation for their application, which is often near the end of the agenda, and which usually takes just a few minutes. It seems unreasonable to make the applicant wait until most other business is addressed, much of which is new business. Also, when architects or other professionals are involved in the application, the applicant has to pay for their hourly attendance, and a HARB member is usually in attendance to field questions, who also needs to wait. We have observed that with increasing frequency applicants and their consultants are skipping the supervisors meeting due to the long wait time for their application to be addressed.

Upon a Motion by Larry Peseski, seconded by Marnie Newman, it was unanimously agreed to recommend that HARB motions for Certificates of

Appropriateness presented to the Board of Supervisors for acceptance be placed on the meeting agenda for review immediately after the first public comment portion of the agenda.

Chair Peseski stated he would follow up with the township administration regarding HARB recruits and to recommend changing the HARB Zoning Ordinance to permit an architect to be appointed to the historical board who may live outside of the township.

V. Public Comment – None

VI. Adjournment

Chair Peseski motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine E. Terranova
H.A.R.B. Administrator, Solebury Township Solebury Township