

Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2025

- **Call to Order**

Pat Fisher-Olsen called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. She announced that all laws governing the Open Public Meetings Act have been met, and that this meeting had been duly advertised. The meeting was held at the Readington Township Municipal Building.

- **Roll Call**

In attendance were Commissioners Pat Fisher-Olsen, Erin Brennan, Jim Carden, Sarah John, Steve Nees, Chuck Waters and Alternate Commissioner Marie Almer. Commissioner Alan Harwick and Alternate Commissioner Scott Barton were absent.

- **Historic Preservation Commission Design Reviews**

Potterstown Historic District

Block 4 Lot 7
Solar Panel Installation

The Commission reviewed this application relating to the installation of solar arrays at the February 11, 2025 meeting and voted to return the application to the Zoning Officer to determine the application's compliance with Section 60.2.B.(3) of The Land Development Ordinance of the Township of Readington (the "Ordinance"). The zoning officer determined that the Ordinance's intent was that such solar arrays are not to be visible from the road. Consequently, the application is not in compliance with the Ordinance.

The Commission discussed possible alternatives such as solar panels on the outbuildings or a ground mounted installation. The applicant was advised to address any questions to the zoning officer.

Stanton Historic District

Block 50 Lot 18
Solar Panel Installation

The application relates to the installation of four arrays of solar panels on the roof on the front of the house, facing Stanton Road. The applicant explained that the placement of the panels on the rear of the house would not provide sufficient electricity due to the tree coverage. The applicant was advised that the placement of the panels on the front roof would violate Section 60.2.B.(3) of The Land Development Ordinance of the Township of Readington (the "Ordinance"), which prohibits the placement of solar facilities on property located within local or state/national historic districts on roofs or exterior building elevations that face public streets.

The Commission discussed possible alternatives such as solar panels on the barn or a ground mounted installation. The applicant was advised to address any questions to the zoning officer. The applicant advised that the solar company would not place the panels on the barn due to a ground wire, and that a ground mounted system would interfere with an underground electrical cable.

Motion made by Erin Brennan to reject the application as the placement of solar panels on the building's roof facing Stanton Road did not comply with the Ordinance. Sarah John seconded the motion. Motion approved by: Pat Fisher-Olsen, Erin Brennan, Jim Carden, Sarah John, Steve Nees, Chuck Waters and Marie Almer.

- **Minutes**

- *February 11 , 2025.* Motion to approve the minutes made by Sarah John and seconded by Steve Nees. Motion approved by: Pat Fisher-Olsen, Erin Brennan, Jim Carden, Sarah John, Steve Nees, Chuck Waters and Marie Almer. Chuck Waters abstained.

- **Old Business.**

- *Cold Brook School.* Chair Fisher-Olsen noted that repairs on Cold Brook School to be done by the commissioners and others will be in the context of Historic Preservation Month in May.

- **New Business.**

- *None*

- **Public Comment.**

- *602 Route 523.* A gentleman representing a potential purchaser of this property asked the Commission about the possibility of demolishing a portion of the existing building or moving it to a different section of the property. Chair Fisher-Olsen advised the gentleman that numerous things could be done but the goal should be to retain the historic section of the structure. He would have to submit a complete application with architectural and/or engineering drawings to the Commission, which would be heard at an upcoming meeting.

- **Adjourn.** Sarah John made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chuck Waters seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Erin Brennan.