

**OMONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP LANDMARKS COMMISSION**  
**MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP, SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**MARCH 27, 2024**  
**6:00 PM**

Chair Massand called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and read the opening statement.

**Members Present:** Sonya Hunt, Jessie Havens, Emad Abou-Sabe, Dawn Hammell, Rikki Massand and Runette Parker, Alt #2 (arrived 6:18 p.m.)

**Also Present:** Patricia Todd and Cheryl Chrusz

**Members Absent:** Donald Matthews, Sydney Reisen and Bruce Daniels

**Visitors:** John Waltz and Liz Palius

Mr. Massand welcomed new member Sonya Hunt.

**I. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

**II. INFORMAL APPLICATION**

Joseph Petrovics and Christopher Covault presented proposed improvements to the accessory structure at 439 Route 518 that is used as an art studio. Christopher Covault described the site using an aerial image. He showed photos that were taken by Chair Massand when some of the Commission members visited the site. Plans were shown including the first floor plan, second floor plan and elevations. Mr. Petrovics may put solar panels on the roof.

The Landmarks Commission had POSITIVE comments about the potential project to expand the workshop, following a March 20, 2024 site visit in Blawenburg by Chair Massand, Commission member Havens and Sonya Hunt with details presented at the Petrovics property.

The applicants were welcome at the time of their Informal application, and a consensus to present a Preservation Plan has been achieved (meaning Petrovics and Landmarks both agree for this being a next/future step.)

### **III. MINUTES**

January 24, 2024 – Reorganization and Regular Meeting

The minutes were unanimously approved on a motion by Dawn Hammell and a second by Runette Parker.

### **III. REVIEW OF PLANNING BOARD APPLICATIONS NOT REQUIRING A PRESERVATION PLAN (i.e. not located within a historic district or a designated local historic site)**

**Case: BA-08-23      Applicant: Michael and Jeanine Reilly**

Block 30001 Lot 73 – 17 Augusta Court

Addition of a 253 square foot covered porch that will result in a building coverage and FAR variance

**Case BA-06-23      Applicant: Stellar Land Assets, LLC**

Block 35001 Lot 15 – 316 Wall Street

Conversion of an existing office buildings to automobile sales

**Case BA-04-23      Applicant: Renard Management, Inc.**

Block 29002 Lots 49 & 50 – 1026 Route 518

Construction of a self storage facility

Emad Abou-Sabe left the room during the discussion of the Stellar and Renard Management application.

The members had no comment on the applications.

#### **IV. COMMISSION DISCUSSION**

**1. Washington Well Farm update / SSAAM's planned use of structure(s).**

The Construction Official is waiting for letters from the utility companies before the demolition permit can be issued.

**2. 1860 House status/124 Club**

The Township closed on the property with the 124 Club in December, 2023.

**3. Chandler Potter internship status/projects**

Chandler Potter was not available to attend the meeting.

**4. Mayor's Wellness Campaign. Township Committee and interdepartmental collaborations.**

**a. Japanese Tea Ceremony by artist Simon Keller - Library program room.  
Sunday date?**

The date and time for a Japanese Tea Ceremony event in the Library will be announced. Chair Massand explained the tea is served in pots made out of New Jersey clay.

**b. "History Hike (or stroll)" at Montgomery Veterans Park.  
Historical signage on paved pathway  
Music + tables.**

The Commission discussed the signage at Veterans Park and photos of the signs were displayed. The Girl Scouts installed the signage a long time ago. The signs can be utilized to help guide the Landmarks Commission on interpretive signage.

Committee Person Todd explained the Wellness Campaign is to encourage wellness through traditional events that have wellness components such as the Farmers Market.

Dawn Hammell, Runette Parker and Sonya Hunt were appointed to a Committee to work on wellness event suggestions.

A tour of historic sites was suggested as an event. Members of the Youth Leadership Council could give informational tours.

**5. 2024 NJ Sustainability Summit**

The Summit is the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday in May at Bell Works in Holmdel.

A conference is scheduled June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> in Jersey City.

**6. "The History Twins" Carla & Keyes' presentation -- potential dates/times/themes.**

Carla and Keyes are interpretive actors.

**7. 48 Fairview Cemetery**

The cemetery is located in the Sourlands. The property has been put up for sale and the neighbors would like the Township to preserve the property. The Commission wondered if there is a State interest in the cemetery.

**8. Old Business - Update on Landmarks signs, Blue Acres, Opie's Mill and Bridgepoint Historic District**

These items were carried to next month's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.