



## Office of the Mayor

**120 Filmore Street  
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865**

Phone: 908-454-5500 x302

Fax: 908-454-6511

Town Website: [www.phillipsburgnj.org](http://www.phillipsburgnj.org)

Email: [sellis@phillipsburgnj.org](mailto:sellis@phillipsburgnj.org)

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### PRESS RELEASE

The Town of Phillipsburg is pleased to announce the creation of a new Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) which, among other duties, will promote the Town's historic and architecturally significant properties. These properties contribute visually to the character and integrity of the Town and are important in assessing the historic patterns of development and the Town's history. "We are thrilled to have established this group whose mission will be to maintain, preserve, and promote these visual links to the past," said Mayor Stephen Ellis of the creation of the HPC, "It is an important function of government, not only to provide a sense of stability and continuity for future generations, but to provide impetus for the revitalization of the Town's economic base and for the resulting increase in property values."

In April 2017 the Town's planning board adopted a historic preservation master plan element that contains a list of historically significant properties and districts in Phillipsburg and made certain recommendations regarding their preservation. Subsequently, the Town Council at its July 18, 2017 meeting adopted Ordinance #2017-12 which established the HPC (§625-103). The purpose of the HPC is:

- to prepare and regularly update the survey of historic sites in the town, recommending sites and districts to be included for preservation;
- prepare supporting documentation for nominating eligible properties for designation to the State and/or National Registers;
- prepare and maintain guidelines for appropriate architectural designs applicable to the exterior appearance of new construction and for the renovation, alteration, enlargement or other change to the exterior of structures that are located on a historic property;
- make recommendations to the Planning Board on the historic preservation plan element of the master plan and on the implications for preservation of historic sites of any other master plan elements;
- advise the Planning Board and Town Council on the inclusion of historic sites in any recommended capital improvement program; and
- provide other advisory, educational and information functions that promote historic preservation in the Town.

Additionally, the Planning Board shall refer to the HPC every application for development submitted to the Board for development in historic zoning districts or on historic sites designated on the zoning map or identified in any component element of the master plan.

The HPC consists of seven regular members, who have been appointed by the Mayor and who serve without compensation. The following individuals will be formally appointed by the Mayor at the Town Council's January meeting: Jackie Attinello, Edward Bullock, Paul Carpenito, Seamus Duddy, Jeffrey Finegan, Frank Greenagel, and Mary O'Sullivan. Mayor Ellis stated that with this group he feels the Town has raised the bar and 'professionalized' the historic restoration and preservation standards in Phillipsburg, N.J., "I really believe there is so much to offer and our past is the path to a town wide renaissance."

The HPC meeting dates are to be determined at the start of January 2018 and are always open to the public. More information on the HPC can be found on the Town website at [www.phillipsburgnj.org](http://www.phillipsburgnj.org).