



Crossroads of the American Revolution Association

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October 7, 2009

The Honorable Brian Hughes
County Executive, Mercer County
Mercer County Administration Building
South Broad Street
Trenton, NJ 086

Dear Brian:

Thank you for arranging the Bear Tavern Road bridge project meeting on October 1 with Kelly Ganges, Tim Watson, Greg Sandusky and the other members of your staff. I was glad that Mayor Sandom along with the Hopewell Township Administrator/Engineer as well as Richard Patterson from the Old Barracks Museum could join us at the meeting.

I came away from the meeting with the understanding that Mercer County will conduct the 1A and 1B Archaeological Surveys that would be required under the Fresh Water Stream Encroachment permitting process as soon as an archaeological consultant can be hired and will work with the State Historic Preservation Office to establish the scope of work that the consultant will be asked to perform. Mercer County would also provide a pull-off and interpretive Revolutionary War era signage on Jacobs Creek Road should Bear Tavern Road and the Bear Tavern Road bridge be realigned.

I also so appreciate having had an opportunity to discuss the purpose of the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area and how this project falls within the heritage area's Congressional mandate to:

- Assist communities, organizations, and citizens in New Jersey in preserving the special historic identity of the State and the importance of New Jersey to the United States.
- Provide for the management, preservation, protection and interpretation of the cultural, historic and natural resources of the State for the educational and inspirational benefit of future generations.

The Crossroads Association recognizes that our federal enabling legislative language is very broad. We are currently undertaking a lengthy and public

management planning process that will help us determine how best to carry out our mission.

The Bear Tavern Road bridge project has taken us out of the realm of ideas and into the real world. We look forward to working with Mercer County, the State Historic Preservation Office, and Hopewell Township to ensure that the Revolutionary War resources at Jacobs Creek and Bear Tavern Road are surveyed, protected and interpreted.

I know that you have always had a deep appreciation for the historic resources of Mercer County and appreciate all that you have done to preserve our historic sites, open spaces and farmlands.

Thanks again for arranging a meeting where we could talk fully about the significance of the landscape and terrain of the Washington Victory Trail at the Bear Tavern Road crossing at Jacobs Creek. And I appreciate that you and your staff are taking under advisement the request of our board that any bridge design, construction or route alteration approved by Hopewell Township and Mercer County preserve the integrity of this historic landscape

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cate".

Cate Litvack
Executive Director

cc:
Mayor Vanessa Sandom
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