



# TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL

## MERCER COUNTY

### OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR/ENGINEER

201 Washington Crossing Pennington Road

Titusville, New Jersey 08560-1410

609.737.0605 Ext. 664

609.737.6839 Fax

March 10, 2009

Greg Sandusky, P.E., County Engineer

County of Mercer

640 South Broad Street

Trenton, NJ

Re: Bear Tavern Bridge Replacement

Dear Mr. Sandusky:

Thank you for your letter of February 6, 2009. Hopewell Township has reviewed the proposed plan for this historic structure and has endorsed the project subject to the following comments, recommendations and requests:

1. **Historic Preservation Commission** - In a special meeting of the Hopewell Preservation Commission on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009, the following items were discussed:
  - a. The HPC is reluctantly accepting the relocation of the historic King Truss Bridge over Jacob's Creek primarily out of concern for public safety and that suggested alternatives to reinforce the existing bridge would greatly compromise the historic integrity of the bridge.
  - b. The HPC is encouraged by opportunity offered by the county to weigh in on aesthetic considerations for the bridge.
  - c. The HPC viewed photographs of several bridges located in neighboring Somerset County and looks forward to a conversation with County officials as to the viability of some of those designs.
  - d. The HPC believes that there should be a common design language of bridges located within Hopewell Township, particularly of the two new bridges proposed at Jacobs and Woolsey Creeks, and that recent bridge construction within the township lacks a degree of sensitivity or design aesthetic.
  - e. The HPC wants to advance the concept of an environmentally friendly bridge that enhances the view shed of the Jacob's Creek locale. Additionally, appropriate

signage marking the prior location of the historic bridge and the route of Washington's army across Jacobs Creek should be strongly considered.

- f. The HPC has concerns about the potential increase of traffic on Bear Tavern Road and its effects on the National Historic District of Harbourton and advocates the conveyance of a right of way to Hopewell Twp so that they may institute traffic calming measures as a means of protection for the houses and residents located therein.
- g. The HPC desires an oversight role in the relocation and restoration of the King Truss Bridge at the Alliger tract as is dictated by our inclusion of this bridge in our local register of historic places in 2001.

2. **Hopewell Township Committee** – During its regular meeting on March 9, 2009 the Township Committee reviewed your letter dated February 6, the Historic preservation Commission letter dated March 4, comments received from residents on the matter, and comments from Township Committee members. Based upon that review and in addition to the Historic Preservation Commission comments, the following additional requests are made:

- a. Traffic calming measures be provided at the Janssen site driveway on Bear Tavern Rd. and that such improvements offer additional gaps for existing traffic exiting Maddock Rd. onto Bear Tavern Rd.
- b. Pavement width from the Janssen site driveway to the new bridge be reduced to the proposed 34 foot width being used for the new bridge and that the alignment of Bear Tavern Rd. in the vicinity of Maddock Rd. be pushed as far east as possible to offer a level landing area for traffic exiting Maddock Rd onto Bear Tavern Rd.
- c. Speed reductions be implemented between the Janssen site driveway and the new bridge as well as in the vicinity of Bear Tavern school. Traffic calming, signalization and crosswalks for pedestrians coming from Fabrow Drive should be constructed at the Bear Tavern School.
- d. Speed reductions be evaluated and implemented from Washington Crossing-Pennington Rd. to Church Rd.
- e. Mercer County transfer ownership of that portion of Bear Tavern Rd between Harbourton-Woodsville Rd north to the northerly limit of its jurisdiction in the Harbourton Historic District. This effort will help Hopewell Township redefine the road improvements along this segment o be more sympathetic to the Historic District.

Greg Sandusky, County Engineer

March 10, 2009

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We appreciate the County's needs with regard to its infrastructure and we trust the County will appreciate our limited needs as described in the items herein. We look forward to working with the County on an expeditious closure to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vanessa Sandom', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Vanessa Sandom, Mayor

C: Brian Hughes, Mercer County Executive  
Aaron T. Watson, Director of Transportation and Infrastructure

**TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL  
MERCER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**R E S O L U T I O N #09-107**

**A RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE REPLACEMENT  
OF THE BEAR TAVERN BRIDGE OVER  
JACOBS CREEK (BRIDGE #214.2)**

**WHEREAS**, Mercer County originally commissioned studies for the replacement of the Bear Tavern Bridge (#214.2) in the 1970's; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bear Tavern Road Bridge was determined to be individually eligible for listing in the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places on June 3, 1991; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hopewell Township Historic Sites Committee commented that the bridge was of historical significance; and the bridge was one of only several of its kind left in the State; and

**WHEREAS**, many meetings occurred between 2002 and 2004 with representatives of Mercer County Engineering and Transportation Department, Janssen Pharmaceutica, Hopewell Township Committee representatives and the Hopewell Township Engineer to evaluate the in-place preservation of the bridge; and

**WHEREAS**, having never reached a consensus, in 2004 the Hopewell Township Mayor appointed a Task Force to independently review the bridge, the needs for its reconstruction, and various construction alternatives and to recommend several alternatives based upon a mediated decision making process; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor's Task Force included representatives from Hopewell Township Police Department, Hopewell Township Historic Preservation Commission, Hopewell Township Engineer, Mayor's Task Force on Traffic and Trucking, Acting Mercer County Engineer, Janssen Pharmaceutica, the Office of State Historic Preservation, and Hopewell Township Residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor's Task Force began meeting on April 19, 2004 and, after 7 meetings, recommended to the Hopewell Township Committee in November 2004 that the existing bridge be rehabilitated in place with widening and strengthening; and

**WHEREAS**, after evaluating the Mayor's Task Force recommendations and in consultation with State Historic Preservation Office, in a letter dated February 2009, the Mercer County Engineer indicated that the County has selected a complete replacement of the structure because the modifications required to achieve the Task Force recommendations would significantly diminish the historic value of the structure; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hopewell Township Historic Preservation Commission has evaluated the proposal and found that suggested alternatives to modifying the existing bridge would greatly compromise the historic integrity of the bridge and, therefore, reluctantly accepted the relocation of the historic King Truss Bridge over Jacob's Creek, primarily out of concern for public safety.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, on this 9th day of March, 2009, by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that the replacement of the historic truss bridge (Mercer County #214.2), its restoration and relocation to the Alliger Park for use as a trail crossing over Woolsey Brook be endorsed subject to the requests and recommendations of the Hopewell Township Historic Preservation Commission and the Hopewell Township Committee.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution are forwarded to Brian Hughes, Mercer County Executive; Aaron Watson, Director of Transportation and Infrastructure; and Greg Sandusky, Mercer County Engineer.

Date Adopted: March 9, 2009

**CERTIFICATION**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THE FOREGOING TO BE  
A TRUE COPY OF A *Resolution* ADOPTED  
BY THE HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
AT A MEETING HELD

*March 9, 2009*

DATE

*Annette C. Bielawski*

ANNETTE C. BIELAWSKI, MUNICIPAL CLERK



TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL  
MERCER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
201 WASHINGTON CROSSING-PENNINGTON ROAD  
TITUSVILLE, NEW JERSEY 08560-1410  
609-737-0605

Via email  
Paul E. Pogorzelski [paulpogo@hopewelltp.org]

March 4, 2009

Mr. Paul Pogorzelski  
Township Administrator  
201 Washington Crossing-Pennington Road  
Titusville, New Jersey 08560-1410

Re: Jacob's Creek Bridge, Woolsey Creek Bridge

Dear Mr. Pogorzelski:

In a special meeting of the Hopewell Preservation Commission on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009, at 11:00 am the following items were discussed:

**Jacob's Creek Bridge**

The HPC is reluctantly accepting the relocation of the historic King Truss Bridge over Jacob's Creek primarily out of concern for public safety and that suggested alternatives to reinforce the existing bridge would greatly compromise the historic integrity of the bridge. The HPC is encouraged by opportunity offered by the county to weigh in on aesthetic considerations for the bridge. The HPC viewed photographs of several bridges located in neighboring Somerset County and looks forward to a conversation with County officials as to the viability of some of those designs. The HPC believes that there should be a common design language of bridges located within Hopewell Township, particularly of the two new bridges proposed at Jacobs and Woolsey Creeks, and that recent bridge construction within the township lacks a degree of sensitivity or design aesthetic. The HPC wants to advance the concept of an environmentally friendly bridge that enhances the view shed of the Jacob's Creek locale. Additionally, appropriate signage marking the prior location of the historic bridge and the route of Washington's army across Jacobs Creek should be strongly considered. The HPC has concerns about the potential increase of traffic on Bear Tavern Road and its effects on the National Historic District of Harbourton and advocates the conveyance of a right of way to Hopewell Twp so that they may institute traffic calming measures as a means of protection for the houses and residents located therein. The HPC desires an oversight role in the relocation and restoration of the King Truss Bridge at the Alliger tract as is dictated by our inclusion of this bridge in our local register of historic places in 2001.

MAXIMILLIAN HAYDEN, CHAIR  
ELIZABETH ACKERMAN, DAVID BLACKWELL, PAMELA CRABTREE  
ERIKA KOTITE, MOIRA LAWRENCE, PHILIP ROBBINS

VANESSA SANDOM, TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBER  
ROBERT MILLER, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER  
DEBORAH RISHKO, SECRETARY

# HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

## Woolsey Creek Bridge

The bridge over Woolsey Creek was originally utilized for the Mercer-Somerset Railroad. There exist remnants of the stone arch and abutment that, dependent upon the reconfiguration of the roadways should either remain intact as a relic or possibly relocated nearby with appropriate interpretive signage to demarcate the history of the area and the railway. The HPC's position has changed on this due to the desire not to deleteriously effect the neighbors immediately adjoining the roadway including the historic Woolsey but also the properties located westerly of that property realizing that the alignment would severely impact those front yards. The HPC also believes that these time honored pathways should remain in their original configurations as much is safely possible.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. James Hayden III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

M. James Hayden III  
Chair, Hopewell Township Historic Preservation Commission

MAXIMILLIAN HAYDEN, CHAIR  
ELIZABETH ACKERMAN, DAVID BLACKWELL, PAMELA CRABTREE  
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