

MEMORANDUM

To: Robert Parisi, Mayor
cc: John Sayers, Business Administrator
Robert Bagoff, Chairman, Planning Board
Tammy Williams, Councilwoman

From: Brian Feeney
Chairman, West Orange Historic Preservation Commission

Date: September 27, 2021

RE: Proposed Local Landmark Designations

The West Orange Historic Preservation Commission has been studying properties within the Township to identify those that are important to our cultural history. The goal was to find properties that meet the standard for designation as Local Historic Landmarks, especially one's that help to tell the story of our collective heritage. Each of the five properties that the Commission identified reflects one or more themes: worship, food, housing, government, and innovation. The following is a list of those properties:

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 315 Main Street; State Diner, 567 South Valley Road; Williams/McManus/Lehmann House, 122 Main Street; Hedges Block, 56 Main Street (hardware store); George V. Hecker Carriage House, 36 Ridge Road.

Following the guidelines contained in the Revised General Ordinances, section 25-30, the Commission retained the services of an historical resource consultant who conducted an in-depth study and research report for each property. Copies of the draft reports were posted on the Township website, and printed copies were placed in the West Orange Public Library. To seek public input regarding our intention to nominate these properties as Local Historic Landmarks, the draft reports were presented to the public at a virtual meeting on July 21, 2021. At the conclusion of the meeting Commissioners discussed what they heard, then voted to accept the drafts as final reports and send the recommendations forward. The final designation reports are posted on the Township website.

As the next step in the process, the Planning Board will consider our recommendations at their October 6, 2021 meeting. Commission Vice Chairman Marty Feitlowitz and I will represent the Commission at the meeting; a representative from the firm that conducted the research will also attend. If the Planning Board concurs with our recommendations, they will forward their decision to the Council who will then make the final decision to designate or not designate five new Local Historic Landmarks.

If you have any questions regarding the Commission's work, please feel free to contact me at 862-216-8022.