

PUBLIC COMMENT SUBMITTED AT HIGHLANDS
COUNCIL MEETING ON JULY 16, 2020

From: [Edward Ng](#)
To: [Highlands](#)
Cc: [Chester Historical Society, Inc.](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please forward this note to the Highlands Council for their July 16 meeting
Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2020 4:59:35 PM

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Christine LaRocca, Chief Counsel
Via email to: highlands@highlands.nj.gov
Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council
100 North Rd.
Chester, NJ 07930

July 15,

2020

Dear Counsel LaRocca,

Would you please forward this note to the Council for their meeting on July 16, 2020. Thank you.

Re: Agenda Item 8. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION – Consideration of the Motion to Stay Highlands Council Resolution No. 2020-03 Filed with the Highlands Council by DPF Chester, LLC

I am writing with regards to historic buildings and a mention of the “Chester Historical Society” on page 5 of Mason Thompson LLC’s letter memorandum to Christine LaRocca of March 25, 2020.

Because a building is not listed on the National Registry of Historic Places that does not mean it is not historic. Registration requires advocacy and support of the owners which was not forthcoming for the two buildings in question. However, Sunnyside and the Isaac Corwin House (also known as Larison’s Turkey Farm Inn) have been recognized as historic by three different entities: 1. Both are on the Morris County Historic Sites Survey (1406-125 and 1406-126, respectively). 2. The New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office Opinion (9/25/2001) states that the Isaac Corwin House (ID#3870) is eligible for the National Registry of Historic Places and that Sunnyside could be if more information were forthcoming. 3. The Isaac Corwin House was only one of three buildings in Chester, listed and documented, in the 1933 Historic American Buildings Survey.

The “unsafe structure” mentioned on page 5 is the historic house known as Sunnyside. A reasonable observation is that the structure is unsafe due to “demolition by neglect”. This building was offered to the Chester Historical Society, but too late for us to meet the application deadline for a Morris County Historic Preservation Grant. So we declined the offer.

With regards to Chester Borough’s ordinances for Historical Preservation and Architectural Review for Sunnyside and the Isaac Corwin House, Chester Historical Society’s pleading for preservation to the Chester Borough Land Use Board, have not been successful. Development has trumped adaptive reuse and preservation of these historic buildings. I believe the ordinances with respect to private property are inadequate to prevent demolition of Chester Borough’s historic assets and

need to be amended.

Respectfully yours,

Edward Ng
President Chester Historical Society

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