

Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)

December 2, 2013 Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm.

Roll Call

Present

Yvonne Beatrice
Leda Dunn-Wettre
Marc Foner
Deborah Grob
Anne Powley, late 7:50pm
Gus Vasiliadis, late 7:45pm
Ron Wohlberg,
Barbara Shanley

Absent

Carol Greene, excused
Jack Bolan, excused
Randall Brewster, excused

Flag Salute

Sunshine Law: The secretary read the Sunshine Law.

Public Session: Mrs. Dunn-Wettre moved to open the Public Session and Mrs. Grob seconded the motion. All approved. There were no members of the public present. Mrs. Grob moved to close the Public Session and Mr. Foner seconded the motion. All approved.

Minutes November 4, 2013: Mrs. Beatrice moved to approve the November 4, 2013 minutes with the following corrections:

Correct spelling of Mr. Fulner to Mr. Foner throughout the minutes; under Chair's report fourth paragraph, first sentence, change contract to contact, and fifth paragraph, first sentence, change awardees to recipients; tenth paragraph, first sentence, correct Mrs. Prowley to Mrs. Powley; 15th paragraph, first sentence change state to New York City. Under New Business, first paragraph, fourth sentence add. ..know... after should and fifth paragraph, last sentence, change ...not to lose... to ...maintain...; 17th paragraph correct Mrs. Grab to Mrs. Grob. Mrs. Dunn-Wettre seconded the motion. All approved.

Chair's Report:

Joyce Kilmer Poetry Contest: The Chair reported that she had been in contact with the Joyce Kilmer School principal regarding ideas for activities that the Joyce Kilmer students could participate in this year, since last year it included the middle and high school students only. The Joyce Kilmer principal responded that their students would like to be included in the annual Joyce Kilmer poetry contest.

Mr. Vasiliadis arrived at the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

It was decided to repeat the Joyce Kilmer poetry contest in 2014 starting February 2, 2014 (Joyce Kilmer Day) with a deadline of April 1, 2014 and announce the award at the May HPC meeting. Mrs. Shanley will ask for donations from Shop Rite and Five Below. Mrs. Beatrice will submit the proposal to the Mahwah School Superintendent and compose the flyers. Prizes will be the same as last year but will include grades four and five. All agreed.

Mrs. Powley arrived at the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Old Train Station: The Chair and Mahwah Museum President, Mr. Carreras, finalized the letter to the Mayor and Council and will submit to Council for Council January agenda.

Mahwah Heritage Awards: The Chair reviewed the Mahwah Heritage Awards presentation, with the members, for the December 5, 2013 Council meeting. Mrs. Grob will take pictures.

Wanamaker Shed and Glasgow Outhouse: Mr. Wohlberg reported that he had constructed a sill around the base of the outhouse. DPW Buildings and Grounds installed 2 x 6 boards around the outhouse and successfully moved the outhouse onto the cement slab. Mr. Wohlberg stabilized the base enough to make it temporarily secure and will complete the process when the weather improves. The outhouse door is now facing the Mahwah River. Mrs. Shanley submitted a \$17.88 reimbursement request from Mr. Wohlberg for materials he purchased for the project. The Chair reported that it is a work in progress and volunteers are still needed for completion of the project.

Applications: Docket #550PF, 40 Old Oak Drive, two lot sub-division application.

After a thorough review of the application, Mrs. Grob moved to approve Docket #550PF with no comments and Mrs. Dunn-Wettre seconded the motion. All approved.

Vote: 8 yes, 0 no. Beatrice, yes; Grob, yes; Foner, yes; Powley, yes; Vasiliadis, yes; Dunn-Wettre, yes; Wohlberg, yes; Shanley, yes.

NJDEP: No comments at this time.

Web Site Sub-Committee: Mrs. Grob, Mrs. Dunne-Wettre and Mrs. Shanley met and decided that additional Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) should be added to the HPC web site page. Each member was assigned a question to research and answer. Questions can be added.

1. How do I find out if my house is historic? Mrs. Dunn-Wettre will research this question.
2. I want to protect my historic home. What do I need to do? Mrs. Shanley will research this question.
3. What documentation do I need to prove my house is historic and where do I find the documentation? Mr. Foner will research this question.
4. If I list my house on the ordinance, does that mean I cannot change anything in/on it? Mrs. Grob will research this question.
5. Why should I list my house on the Township Ordinance? Mrs. Beatrice will research this question.
6. Is there any tax incentive or financial benefit to putting my house on the Township Ordinance? Mrs. Dunn-Wettre will research this question.
7. What will it do to the value of my house if I list it on the Township Ordinance? Mrs. Shanley will research this question.

Mrs. Powley will research web sites of other towns Historic Preservation Commission's FAQs .

The members will report on their findings at the February 3, 2014 meeting.

New Business:

The Chair reported that the Masonicus Church is for sale. The Chair will contact the realtor to give her information on the property including its historic designation.

The Chair handed out to the members a copy of the Mahwah Museum lecture series that will be held at the Ramapo Reformed Church starting in February, 2014.

Old Business:

Aronow Place Cottage:

Mrs. Dunn-Wettre reported that there are two broken windows and no recent work has been done to the cottage.

Mrs. Powley had no update on the Sherman Williams paint donation.

Mrs. Shanley reported that she has not heard from the Eagle Scout candidate she had spoken to, at the Joyce Kilmer Tree dedication, regarding the possible Eagle Scout project of painting the Quackenbush barn and making certain exterior repairs. She will contact the Eagle Scout to see if he is still interested in the project

General Discussion:

Mr. Foner asked if historic named streets could be identified with special street signs for historically significant street names i.e. Hopper and Ackerman family. Mrs. Shanley stated that Mahwah does not have an historic district and that the HPC submits street names for new streets that reflect an historic significance for that area. Mr. Foner asked if street signs that are named after families with historic significance to the Township could be printed in a different color. The Chair stated that the Township honors its fallen veterans with street names that are starred. Mr. Foner will contact, Office of Emergency Management Official, Ray Roe, to discuss possible street name signage for streets named in honor of families with historic significance to the Township.

Mrs. Shanley reported that she will be stepping down as HPC Chairperson. She will remain on the Commission, but due to personal reasons needs to step down as HPC Chair. Therefore, at the January 6, 2014 meeting, the members will need to nominate and vote for a new Chairperson for the HPC.

Mrs.Dunn-Wettre moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Vasiliadis seconded the motion. All approved.

These minutes are a synopsis of the MHPC tapes, which are on file at the Township Municipal Building.

/dms