

MAHWAH HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (MHPC)
March 3, 2008 MINUTES

Roll Call

Present

Barbara Shanley
Randell Brewster
John Bristow
Gus Vasiliadis
Carol Greene

Absent

Marthajean Drago, excused
Lynn Ballerini, excused
Kenneth Cerullo, excused
J. Thomas Thornton

Salute to the flag

The secretary read the Sunshine Law.

Mrs. Shanley reported that she had contacted HPC attorney, Mrs. DeScherer, esq., and was informed that the Commission needs a quorum from the members that were present at the meeting in order to approve the monthly minutes.

Minutes:

August 6, 2008 minutes: Mr. Bristow moved to approve the August 6, 2008 as read and Mr. Vasiliadis seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Vote: 4 yes; 0 no; 1 abstain: Bristow, yes; Greene, yes; Vasiliadis, yes; Brewster, abstain; Shanley, yes.

September 10, 2007: Mrs. Greene moved to approve the September 10, 2007 minutes as read and Mr. Vasiliadis seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Vote: 3 yes; 0 no; 2 abstain: Bristow, abstain; Greene, yes; Vasiliadis, yes; Brewster, abstain; Shanley, yes.

February 4, 2008 minutes: Mrs. Greene moved to approve the minutes as corrected: Under Public Session and General Discussion change Mr. George McDonald to Mr. George McDonnell; under Chair's report and General Discussion change Mrs. Brewster to Mr. Brewster, and under Applications change Mr. Shanley to Mrs. Shanley. Mr. Bristow seconded the motion: All approved.

Vote: 5 yes, 0 no: Bristow, yes; Greene, yes; Vasiliadis, yes; Brewster, yes; Shanley, yes.

Legal: The attorney was not present.

Public Session: Mr. Bristow moved to open the Public Session and Mrs. Greene seconded the motion. All approved

Vote: 5 yes 0 no: Bristow, yes; Greene, yes; Vasiliadis, yes; Brewster, yes; Shanley, yes.

Mrs. Shanley recognized Mrs. Debbie Grob, wife of the Ramapo Reformed Church pastor. Mrs. Shanley thanked Mrs. Grob for attending the HPC meeting and expressing an interest in becoming a member. At this time Mrs. Grob had no questions.

Mrs. Greene moved to close the Public Session and Mr. Vasiliadis seconded the motion. All approved.

Vote: 5 yes 0 no: Bristow, yes; Greene, yes; Vasiliadis, yes; Brewster, yes; Shanley, yes.

Chair's Report:

Mrs. Shanley asked if either Mr. Vasiliadis or Mrs. Greene had heard from Mr. McDonnell regarding his interest in joining the Commission. Mr. Vasiliadis reported that Mr. McDonnell is in India right now and will submit his resume to the Mayor when he returns.

Mrs. Shanley asked if the members would object if she asks Mahwah High School teacher and resident Yvonne Beatrice if she would be interested in joining the Commission. Mrs. Beatrice has always expressed an interest in preserving Mahwah history. The Commission agreed.

Mrs. Shanley reported that she had spoken to McCabe & Associates and was told that the Certified Local Government (CLG) grant application is very involved and that many towns are applying. McCabe & Associates advised that it would not be a good idea to apply until the Master Plan has been revised and updates put in place. The Master Plan has to be in alignment with the New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan. Mrs. Shanley will check with Township Planner, Burgis & Associates to see if we comply. McCabe suggested that we wait until next year to apply for the CLG grant, when the revised Master Plan has been approved.

Mrs. Shanley will call McCabe & Associates again to ask for a copy of the West Mahwah CLG grant that they applied for a few years ago.

Mrs. Shanley reported that she and Carol had met two weeks ago and compared the list of historic sites on Ramapo Valley Road with the Tax Assessors computer listing and found some errors, such as dates of buildings, lot and block numbers and street addresses. As a result, Mrs. Shanley contacted the Tax Assessor, Mr. Stolarz, and he will work with the Commission to update his program. The historic designations that were listed in the past, have been deleted, as per the present Administration.

Mrs. Shanley reported that the Commission must continue its verification of historic sites to make sure the Master Plan is correct.

Mrs. Greene volunteered to help Mrs. Shanley research the historic roads i.e. Island, Miller, Airmont, Airmont, Scherer, Stag Hill, Moffatt, Winter, Franklin Tpke., Wyckoff, Chapel, Ridge Road.

Mrs. Greene and Mr. Vasiliadis will research the historic properties on Ramapo Valley Road, Mid Vale Mountain Road and Campgaw Road. Mrs. Greene asked if she could recruit Mrs. Grob to assist them. All approved.

Mr. Bristow will continue to research the cemeteries.

Mr. Brewster will assist Mrs. Shanley with historic sites on Franklin Tpke., Cragmere, Halifax, Oweno, and Olney Road, West Ramapo Avenue, and Winters Street.

Mrs. Shanley stressed that the Commission needs to compile a second list of properties that were demolished but need to be documented as former historic structures that were demolished.

For the benefit of the public, Mrs. Shanley gave a brief summary of the Master Plan and the importance of why the HPC must verify the historic sites before the Master Plan is finalized.

The Commission will report their findings at the April 7, 2008 HPC meeting.

2007 Historic Plaque: Mrs. Shanley compiled information on the Quackenbush Barn and forwarded the information to Mrs. Drago for a final proof. Mrs. Drago will submit the final draft at the April 7 HPC meeting.

Applications: none at this time

Street Names: none at this time

Old Business: none at this time.

General Discussion:

Mrs. Greene reported that the master copy of the HPC brochure has been misplaced and she needs a copy of the original color copy to make additional copies. Mrs. Shanley will contact Mrs. Drago for her master copy of the brochure.

Mrs. Greene read a letter from Mr. Richard Greene regarding the status of the historic Cleveland Bridge. The letter questioned the recent test borings made at and near the Cleveland Bridge over the Rambo River at Bear Swamp Road. The proposed replacement bridge would carry a maximum weight vehicle of 80,000 lbs. Mr. Greene stated that there is no safety, physical, economic reason or traffic need to replace this historic bridge and requested the support of the HPC to preserve this historic bridge.

Mrs. Greene suggested that the HPC write a letter to the County and copy the Mayor and Council of the historic significance of preserving the Cleveland Bridge. The bridge is the only functioning wood-plank bridge in Bergen County.

Mr. Vasiliadis moved to write the Bergen County Historic Sites Commission and Bergen County Executive detailing the historic significance of the Cleveland Bridge and the importance of preserving the only remaining wood-plank bridge in Bergen County. The Mayor and Council will be copied. Mr. Bristow seconded the motion. All approved.

Vote: 5 yes 0 no 0 abstain: Bristow yes; Vasiliadis yes; Brewster yes; Greene yes; Shanley yes.

Mrs. Shanley will call the Bergen County Historic Commission to discuss who else should be contacted regarding this matter.

Mr. Brewster moved to re-open the Public Session and Mr. Bristow seconded the motion. All approved.

Vote: 5 yes 0 no 0 abstain: Bristow yes; Vasiliadis yes; Brewster yes; Greene yes; Shanley yes.

Mrs. Shanley explained the process of requesting appointment to the HPC. She reported that Mrs. Grob should send her resume to the Mayor along with her letter detailing her interest in the HPC and request to be appointed to the Commission.

Mr. Bristow moved to close the Public Session and Mrs. Greene seconded the motion. All approved.

Vote: 5 yes 0 no 0 abstain: Bristow yes; Vasiliadis yes; Brewster yes; Greene yes; Shanley yes.

Mr. Bristow moved to adjourn the meeting and Mrs. Greene seconded the motion. All approved.

Vote: 5 yes 0 no 0 abstain: Bristow yes; Vasiliadis yes; Brewster yes; Greene yes; Shanley yes.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

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

/dms