

Historic Preservation Commission
April 5, 2010 Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:35 pm.

Roll Call

Present

Barbara Shanley

Randall Brewster

Yvonne Beatrice

Carol Greene

Deborah Grob

Alex Michelini

Absent

Marthajean Drago

John Bristow, excused

Tony Bourgholtzer

Gus Vasiliadis, excused

Sunshine Statement: The secretary read the sunshine statement.

Flag Salute

Public Session: Mrs. Grob moved to open the Public Session and Mr. Brewster seconded the motion. All approved.

No members of the public were present.

Close Public Session: Mrs. Greene moved to close the Public Session and Mr. Brewster seconded the motion. All approved.

Minutes:

March 1, 2010 Minutes:

Mrs. Shanley corrected page three, second paragraph, third sentence, change signification to significant. Mrs. Greene moved to approve the March 1, 2010 minutes as corrected and Mr. Brewster seconded the motion. All approved.

Vote: 6 yes, 0 no: Beatrice, yes; Brewster, yes; Greene, yes; Grob, yes; Michelini, yes; Shanley, yes.

Legal: Mrs. Descherer was not present. No report.

Old Business:

Local Library History Room.

The Chair recognized Mr. Michelini. Mr. Michelini acknowledged the cooperation of the Mahwah Museum to work with the HPC and the Public Library to help create the Mahwah Library Local History Room. Mr. Michelini reported that Mahwah Museum Society President, Mr. Thomas Dunn, has presented the HPC with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) draft and questioned the legality of section "C" of the MOU regarding surrendering HPC original documents to the Museum. The Chair will send the MOU to the HPC attorney for review and comment.

Mr. Michelini also questioned the legality of prohibiting the HPC from seeking additional collections of original documents.

The Chair stated that the HPC has never requested historic documents from residents or organizations. Mrs. Greene stated that what MOU is seeking to accomplish is to define the role that all involved will play, and that the HPC understands that the Museum is the depository for collections of original documents, since they have the facility to take proper care of them, and that the Library Local History Room (LLHR) is not going to compete with the Museum and duplicate the same historic documents.

Mr. Michelini stated that he wanted clarification of the Museum's ownership of all historic documents that will be displayed at the LLHR. Mr. Michelini questioned the legality of prohibiting the public from making donations of historic documents to only the Museum. He stated that if a person wants to donate their historic collection to the HPC or Library they should be allowed to do so. Donations should not be restricted to only the Mahwah Museum Society.

Mrs. Grob suggested that the HPC Ad Hoc Committee of the LLHR Steering Committee review the MOA and make their recommendations for changes and additions and resubmit the agreement to the Museum.

The HPC agreed that paragraph "C" should be taken out of the agreement.

The Chair asked for a straw poll from the members who would agree that page two, paragraph "C" of the agreement should be reworded so it is not so restrictive.

Mrs. Beatrice stated that the MOU concerns were where the original documents shall be stored, not what the Library chooses to display. She stated it is an operating diagram among three different entities. Mrs. Beatrice stated that the question is; does the HPC have the right to turn over documents to the Museum. The Chair stated that is a question for the HPC attorney to review and determine.

Mr. Brewster asked what the next step is to move forward with this project.

Mrs. Greene stated all three parties involved should review the agreement and come to a mutually workable agreement, which as a final outcome benefits all parties involved and the general public.

Mr. Brewster stated that the memorandum invited the HPC LLHR Ad Hoc Committee to the Museum's April 19, 2010 meeting to discuss the MOU, and that further discussion on this project should take place at that meeting.

Mrs. Beatrice commented that she would like a determination as to what role HPC plays in the creation of the LLHR other than advisory. She stated that the structure of the LLHR is up to the Library Board of Trustees.

The Chair will submit a copy of the MOU to the HPC attorney, Mrs. DeScherer, for review and comments prior to the April 19, 2010 Museum meeting.

The Chair asked what the HPC LLHR Ad Hoc Committee needs from the HPC for the April 19, 2010.

Mr. Michelini reported that there are three sections of the agreement that need to be addressed. One is the custody of historic documents; the second is the collection of original materials from donors; and the third is the financial commitment.

The Chair stated that the HPC has no financial commitments to this agreement. The HPC has no budget for this project and will not pay for any archiving of documents.

Mrs. Greene asked what the HPC needs to do to make sure this project doesn't fall apart.

The Chair asked the members if they think that the MOU is necessary, since the HPC's role is only advisory.

Mrs. Grob stated that yes the agreement is necessary, since it is a three way agreement document among the HPC, Library, and Museum.

The Chair asked if the HPC should be a part of the MOA agreement. Mrs. Grob, Mrs. Greene, Mrs. Beatrice, and Mrs. Shanley stated yes. Mr. Brewster and Mrs. Michelini stated no.

The Chair also asked how the members want their role to be expressed in the MOA.

Mr. Brewster moved to remove any reference to the HPC from the MOU on page 2 paragraphs "C" and "CC" and replace it with the following:

"The HPC desires to aid and assist in an advisory capacity with the Library Board of Trustees in a creation of a Local Library History Room, furthermore, that the HPC will offer documents or copies of documents from their files for display in the Mahwah Library Local History Room. Mr. Michelini seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 yes, 0 no.: Greene, yes; Grob, yes; Beatrice, yes; Michelini, yes; Brewster, yes; Shanley, yes.

Mr. Michelini stated that since the HPC approved the aforementioned resolution regarding the role the HPC will play in the MOU he would like to change his statement that the HPC should be a part of the MOU from no to yes, and Mr. Brewster concurred.

Mrs. Grob moved to adjourn the meeting and Mrs. Beatrice seconded the motion. All approved.

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

/dms