

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2019 at 7:30 P.M.**

The meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission, held at the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey, was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Deborah Grob, Chair. The Opening Statement was read according to the Sunshine Law, followed by the flag salute. Roll call was taken.

Present: Deborah Grob, Chair
Reshmee Cuman
Carol Greene, Historian (arrived 7:39 p.m.)
Anne Powley
Barbara Rakov
Barbara Shanley
Deborah Silvestro
Robert Ferguson, Council Liaison

Absent: Yvonne Beatrice
Ronald Wohlberg
Scott Jackson, Alternate II

Public Session

Mrs. Silvestri made a motion to open the meeting to the public. Mrs. Powley seconded. All other present members voted in favor.

Mahwah Train Museum Improvements – Eagle Scout Presentation

Michael Surico (9 Mallard Road), Boy Scout Troop 50, gave a presentation on the improvements he plans to make to the Mahwah Train Museum, including repairing rotted wood on the railroad ties and repainting the exterior. Grob asked Robert Adler (112 Christie Avenue) of the Mahwah Museum if the plans met his approval. The Museum is on board with the Eagle Scout project. Members discussed.

Mahwah Museum Trustee John Fesen introduced himself and said he was in attendance to see what the Commission does. Also in attendance were Mahwah Museum Vice President Diane Adler and Mahwah Museum Trustees Tom Grissom and Alan Bornstein.

Old Station Caboose Improvements

Mr. Bornstein said he is interested in finding out how we can fix the Old Station Caboose and understand the process of obtaining funds to maintain the Old Caboose, which is in danger of deteriorating. Mrs. Grob said it is very difficult to receive grants for this type of project. She said the caboose is not eligible to be listed as a historic site because it was moved from a previous location – the Historic Preservation Commission applied for a grant last year that was denied. She said she would like to form a subcommittee comprised of Museum, Commission and DPW representatives so they can sit down and brainstorm. Mrs. Rakov and Mrs. Silvestro volunteered to represent the Commission. Mr. and Mrs. Adler will present it to the Mahwah Museum Board at its next meeting.

Mrs. Grob said estimates to fix the caboose were in the \$20,000 range. Mr. Grissom asked if we can have DPW place a tarp over the roof to protect the structure in the short term. Mrs. Grob will follow up with DPW.

Members discussed fundraising options. The Museum may try to launch a fundraising effort. Mrs. Storms will check when the next issue of the town newsletter is coming out and let Mrs. Adler know.

Mrs. Cuman made a motion to close the meeting to the public. Mrs. Silvestro seconded. All other members voted in favor.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on February 4, 2019 were approved following a motion by Mrs. Powley; seconded by Mrs. Cuman. A roll call of eligible voters revealed seven aye votes by Mrs. Grob, Mrs. Cuman, Mrs. Greene, Mrs. Powley, Mrs. Rakov, Mrs. Shanley and Mrs. Silvestro.

The March 4, 2019 meeting was canceled due to a lack of quorum. No minutes to approve.

CHAIR'S REPORT

2018 CLG Annual Report

Mrs. Grob and Mrs. Shanley compiled and submitted. Mrs. Grob distributed a copy for the files.

CLG Workshop

Mrs. Grob said Mrs. Beatrice recently attended a CLG Workshop on the value of promotion of preservation. She will report back on the workshop when she is in attendance next month.

Moffatt Road Cemetery Correspondence

Our cleanup of the Moffatt Road Cemetery is scheduled for Saturday, May 4 at 9 a.m. Powley and Cuman are coordinating volunteers.

Mrs. Grob said she and Mrs. Shanley drafted a letter to the owners of the Moffatt Road Cemetery that we would like to submit to Township Attorney Brian Campion. In the past two or three years, we have seen significant deterioration on the western slope of the cemetery, and if that hillside gives way the graves closest to the hill could be lost in a landslide. Mrs. Storms will submit the letter.

Ackerman Home Renovations

Mrs. Grob has reviewed the current renovation plans for the Ackerman House and found the plans acceptable. She prepared a letter of approval to submit to the Planning Department but wanted the members to be aware. Mrs. Storms will submit.

75th Anniversary Celebration of Mahwah's Incorporation

Members discussed some ideas for the 75th anniversary of the incorporation of the Township. A date for the event is still pending. Mrs. Grob urged members to continue looking for photographs to use. We will also do something at our Mahwah Day booth in September.

Mrs. Greene made a motion to open the meeting to the public. Mrs. Cuman seconded. All other present members voted in favor.

Mrs. Adler said the Museum has a projector they use to record interviews. She said it may be useful to use this to interview residents for the 75th Anniversary. She also said the secretary at the Museum has her archival degree and would be helpful to speak to. The group discussed other ideas.

Mrs. Cuman made a motion to close the meeting to the public. Mrs. Powley seconded. All other present members voted in favor.

Vanderbeck Lane Cemetery

We have received reports from neighboring residents that the cemetery is in disrepair. Mrs. Rakov spoke to the owner of 24 Vanderbeck Lane, who would like to know exactly what our plans are before proceeding. Mrs. Grob said we would just like to clean up and document what is on the property. Mrs. Rakov will follow up with the homeowner.

Carmelite Retreat

Mr. Ferguson said the property has been sold to Hackensack Hospital to be turned into a rehabilitation center.

Bergen County Historic Preservation Awards

Nominations were due March 18, 2019. Mrs. Grob said we have nominated many projects, organizations and individuals over the years. At an earlier meeting, Mrs. Cuman suggested nominating the carriage house on Aronow Place. She has since reached out to the homeowners and reported they were not interested in being recognized.

Email Backup

The Mayor's Office is updating the website and has asked that we nominate two representatives to serve as email backups. Mrs. Storms will serve as the primary contact, with Mrs. Grob acting as the backup.

Member Update

Mrs. Grob received an email from a resident indicating her interest on the Commission. She suggested the resident contact the Mayor's Office to submit a letter of interest. We have one open position.

Black History Month

At our last meeting, Mrs. Powley asked if there was anything historically significant that we can post on our Facebook page regarding Black History Month. Mrs. Greene said there was a significant black population in Mahwah during the Civil War era. She will prepare something for next February.

National Preservation Month

Mrs. Powley said May is National Preservation Month and asked if there is anything of note we can post on our Facebook page. Members noted the Quackenbush Barn, the Darlington Schoolhouse and the Old Station Caboose.

Budget Preparation

Mr. Ferguson said he sent the Mayor a note asking if we can do some sort of matching grant to support the restoration of the Old Station Caboose.

Mahwah Museum Tour

Mrs. Adler offered members a tour of the Museum to learn more about what they do.

Chair Position

Mrs. Grob said she plans to resign as Chair in the next few months. She still wants to remain on the Commission.

Meeting Dates

Mrs. Cuman asked if it was possible to change the days of our meetings because she has several scheduling conflicts. Mrs. Grob said we cannot change the dates of our meetings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nothing new to report

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Applications

The following demolition application was reviewed and approved by Mrs. Grob prior to the meeting:

- Demolition Permit Application – 105 Christie Avenue, Block 70, Lot 9

OLD BUSINESS

None at this time

NEW BUSINESS

None at this time

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Copy of a letter of application for Flood Hazard Area Verification from ETI for 186 Halifax Road
- Copy of a letter of withdrawal of Response Action Outcome for the Mahwah U-Save, 231 Route 17
- Copy of a letter of application for Freshwater Wetlands Letter of Interpretation for 251 Route 17 North
- Copy of a letter of Classification Exception Area/Well Restriction Area for Mobil Service Station, 198 Route 17 North
- Various agendas, minutes and public notices

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was adjourned at 8:48 p.m. following a motion by Mrs. Silvestro; seconded by Mrs. Powley. All approved.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey. These minutes are a synopsis of the Mahwah Historic Preservation Commission Meeting. A verbatim audio recording is on file at the Township Municipal Building.

J. Storms
Secretary