

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 3, 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
Carol Greene, Historian – arrived 7:53 p.m.
Anne Powley
Barbara Shanley
Deborah Silvestro
Ronald Wohlberg
Linda Dator, Alternate I
Robert Ferguson, Council Liaison – arrived 7:40 p.m.

Absent: Yvonne Beatrice
Reshmee Cuman
Barbara Rakov
Scott Jackson, Alternate II

Public Session

No members of the public were present.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on May 6, 2019 were approved following a motion by Mrs. Shanley; seconded by Mrs. Silvestro. A roll call of eligible voters revealed six aye votes by Mrs. Grob, Mrs. Powley, Mrs. Silvestro, Mrs. Shanley, Mr. Wohlberg and Mrs. Dator.

Resignation of Current Chair, Nominations & Election of New Chair

Mrs. Grob submitted her official resignation as Chair, effective tonight. She wishes to stay on the Commission as a member. Mrs. Silvestro nominated Anne Powley to serve as Chair.

The nomination was approved following a motion by Mrs. Silvestro; seconded by Mrs. Shanley. A roll call of eligible voters revealed four aye votes by Mrs. Grob, Mrs. Powley, Mrs. Silvestro and Mrs. Shanley.

Mrs. Grob thanked Mrs. Powley for agreeing to serve.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Moffatt Road Cemetery Cleanup

Mr. Ferguson will follow up with the township attorney for an update regarding the letter we prepared to send to the owner of the Moffatt Road Cemetery.

HPC Office Cleanup

Mrs. Storms said we have received approval to come in on Saturday, July 27 at 10 a.m. for an office cleanup. She will send out a reminder to everyone closer to the date.

75th Anniversary Celebration of the Naming of Mahwah Township

Members discussed some ideas for the 75th anniversary celebration of the incorporation of the Township. We are going to put together a timeline of the history of the naming of the township and will work on it the same day as our office cleanup.

Mahwah Museum Update

Mrs. Grob spoke to Mrs. Beatrice, who told her the Train Station Museum opens soon for the summer (June, July, August and September). Museum members are asking whether the roof of the caboose will be repaired in time. Mr. Ferguson said he doesn't expect DPW to be finished with the repairs until the end of the summer or early fall. He will follow up with administration for an update.

Winter Farmhouse Property

Mrs. Grob said she recently learned that the property (1 Farmstead Lane) sold in December. We will pull the tax records and send a letter to the new property owner to make sure they are aware the cottage is a protected structure.

Vanderbeck Lane Cemetery

Before our last meeting, Mr. Wohlberg visited Vanderbeck Lane Cemetery. He said most of the gravestones have been tipped over. The cemetery is in need of being cleaned up. Members discussed liability insurance for sponsoring such a cleanup. Mrs. Storms will follow up with the business administrator to find out what we would need to obtain approval to organize a cleanup.

Carmelite Retreat

No updates at this time.

Historic Ordinance List

Mrs. Storms distributed a list of properties in town designated as historic by ordinance. Members will go through the list and assigned designees for each home.

Uniform Construction Code Changes

Mrs. Grob said after our last meeting, she forwarded language to the Ordinance Committee several recent changes in the Uniform Construction Code in the past year may affect historic sites. The changes eliminate the requirement of a municipal building permit for new roofs or siding. She said this is something we may need to change in our local building codes. She is awaiting guidance from the Ordinance Committee.

Historic Designations & Signs

Mrs. Grob discussed the process of designating a home as historic. She said the application is available on the township website. Mrs. Powley said she recently read an article regarding another town's efforts to offer residents historic placards for their homes. The placards do not limit the homeowners in any way. She asked if this is something we would want to consider in town. Mrs. Powley will pull the article and distribute it to members for review.

Historic Ordinance List, continued

Members finished going through the list and assigning designees for each home. Mrs. Storms will finalize the list and distribute a copy to members.

Nancy Edwards House, Cragmere

Mrs. Powley was approached by a resident regarding his historic home. He lives in the Nancy Edwards House and would like to compile more information about the historic of the home. Members suggested the homeowner ask the museum for more details.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

GENERAL DISCUSSION

New Cell Tower

Mrs. Shanley said she was approached by a resident regarding her concerns with the cell tower being proposed for the Masonicus Firehouse. Mrs. Shanley asked if this would affect any nearby historic sites. Members discussed.

Reformed Church Cemetery Tours

Mr. Ferguson asked if we give tours of the Reformed Church. Mrs. Grob told him we do, typically during Mahwah Day. People can also come to the office anytime and request tours.

75th Anniversary Celebration of the Naming of Mahwah Township, continued

Mrs. Greene asked about our for the 75th anniversary celebration of the incorporation of the Township. Mrs. Grob told her about the timeline we will work on the same day as our office cleanup. Mrs. Greene will bring some information on July 27.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

History of Mahwah Event

Mr. Wohlberg said he read about an upcoming presentation on the history of Mahwah at Valley Medical Center scheduled on Wednesday, June 19.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and reviewed:

- Various agendas, minutes and public notices

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further questions or discussion, the meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was adjourned at 8:34 p.m. following a motion by Mrs. Shanley; seconded by Mrs. Silvestro. All approved.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 1 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