

**TOWNSHIP OF WYCKOFF
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
OCTOBER 11, 2022 MEETING MINUTES**

The October 11, 2022 Historic Preservation Commission meeting was held in the Court Room in Memorial Town Hall.

Doug Swenson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Mitchell read the Open Public Meeting Notice: The October 11, 2022 Open Public Meeting of the Wyckoff Historic Preservation Commission is now in session. A 48-hour notice of this meeting was sent to the Record, The Ridgewood News, and the North Jersey Herald and News; all newspapers having general circulation throughout the Township of Wyckoff and was posted on the Wyckoff website where agendas are posted.

Roll Call

Commission Members Present: Rudy Boonstra, Mayor; Doug Swenson, Chairman; Patricia Constance, Richard Lynch, Steven Zmuda, Beth Van Emburgh, Curtis Bajak, Joseph Haftek, and Maureen Mitchell.

Absent: Joseph Cestaro

Old Business

The May 10, 2022 meeting minutes were approved by the Commission Members.

New Business

Mr. Swenson said there is no status update as to when the fourteen (14) historic structures will be incorporated into the Master Plan. Brigitte Bogart the Township's Professional Planner is working on presenting certain amendments or updates to the Township Committee, one of which is the Historic Element of the Master Plan.

Mr. Swenson spoke about the list, compiled by the County, of other historic structures that the HPC may wish to include in the next group of homes or structures to be incorporated into the Master Plan. He said the list includes streetscapes however he does not think that is something the Commission should place at the top of the list for a number of reasons. For instance, at a previous meeting, Mr. Zmuda had suggested the Business Triangle being designated as historic. Mr. Swenson said many of the homes or buildings in the Business Triangle have been renovated and they would not qualify.

Mr. Haftek said he believes the historic district is a different designation than a historic home. He added that homeowners might be more amenable to having the district deemed historic rather than their individual homes.

Mr. Bajak asked if there is anything in between designating the entire Business Triangle and designating a couple of houses.

Mr. Swenson said there are district designations.

Mr. Haftek pointed out that the districts that are listed on the National Register have no restrictions on what a homeowner can do to his or her property. The State register has similar benefits including tax incentives which could be beneficial to a district to have the historic designation. He added that one criterion for obtaining CLG certification is to show that the Commission has taken action. Once we get the original fourteen (14) homes in the Master Plan, designating a district may be any easy way to take another action and show our involvement in preservation.

Mr. Lynch said that a while back, he put a list of homes together based on date, and there are approximately thirty (30) or so homes that go back to the early 1800's and late 1700's. He suggested the HPC weed through the County's list starting with selecting the oldest homes. Mr. Lynch will revisit the list he compiled and see how many of those homes are still existing.

Mr. Swenson and Mr. Haftek said they will look into the differences between what qualifies as a streetscape and a district.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
NO ONE FROM THE PUBLIC COMMENTED
CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Swenson announced that he was informed that the theme of the 2023 Municipal calendar is the historic homes of Wyckoff. Photos of the homes will be featured in the calendar.

Ms. Constance said she reached out to a few owners of historic homes to ask if she could take photos of the interior however, she has not yet received a good response.

Mr. Swenson mentioned that he is aware that the owner of the James Tracey Eyecare building, located at 400 Franklin Avenue, submitted an application to the Planning Board to renovate the building and add a second story. The applicant was required to go before the Design Review Advisory Board to present the plans, and Joe Cestaro attended the meeting. Mr. Cestaro had some input as to the proposed architectural design of the second story addition.

Ms. Constance reported that she and a few members of the HPC, and a photographer recently took a tour of the Wyckoff Reformed Church. The Pastor showed them some old plans, and documents as well as the basement and the bell tower. The photographer took a lot of great photos.

Mr. Lynch said a major, much needed renovation was done to the basement of the Church back in 2002 with the assistance of a \$413,000 grant from the State. He also reported that the walking tour of the Union Cemetery on September 17th went very well, and there was a great turn out. There are a few improvement projects in the works as well as the addition of a monarch butterfly garden.

Mr. Swenson said he sent out an email to the HPC members with hyperlinks to historic home resources that are very interesting.

Mayor Boonstra reported that the owner of the old stone house on Newtown Road has purchased the property two doors down on the left which is a big piece of property. As a result of the purchase, the old stone house now sits on approximately three (3) acres of property. He added that he does not think there is anything to be concerned about however it is something to keep an eye on to see if anything happens with the property.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and passed unanimously. The meeting concluded at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Mitchell