

**TOWNSHIP OF WYCKOFF
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MARCH 8, 2022 MEETING MINUTES**

The March 8, 2022 Historic Preservation Commission meeting was held in the West Wing Conference 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 March 8, 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, Patricia Constance, Richard Lynch, Steven Zmuda, Joseph Cestaro, Curtis Bajak (via phone), Joseph Haftek (via phone), and Maureen Mitchell.

Absent: Beth Van Emburgh.

Old Business

The February 8, 2022 meeting minutes were approved by the Commission Members.

New Business

Mr. Swenson said that he met briefly with Rob Fortunato, the Planning Board Chairman, to discuss presenting the fourteen (14) homes to the Planning Board for consideration of incorporating the homes into the Historic Element of the Master Plan. Mr. Swenson stated that Mr. Fortunato was receptive to the HPC presenting the documents to the Planning Board at the April 20, 2022 meeting. If the Board shows favor with incorporating the fourteen (14) homes into the Master Plan, the matter will then go before the Township Committee for approval.

Mr. Lynch inquired about the status of the certified letters that were sent to the owners of the fourteen (14) historic structures regarding their inclusion in the Master Plan.

Mr. Swenson stated that all of the return receipts were returned except for the Wyckoff Reformed Church, and 101 Wyckoff Avenue. He went on to say that he hand delivered the letter to the owners of 101 Wyckoff Avenue this past Friday. Mr. Lynch offered to hand deliver the letter to the Wyckoff Reformed Church.

Mr. Swenson mentioned that Mayor Boonstra brought to his attention the Bergen County Historic Preservation Awards Program. He said he looked into it, and it appears to mainly benefit institutions, churches, government owned buildings, universities, and historic sites. The program awards money to perform renovations on historic buildings or historic sites. Mr. Swenson said it is something to consider applying for next year because the deadline for 2022 is March 18th.

Mr. Zmuda suggested applying to the program for the Union Cemetery. Mr. Lynch said the Wyckoff Historical Society is considering applying for that next year.

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

Mr. Swenson said that after listening to Mr. Hurd's comments during last month's meeting, he did some research to try to find insurance companies that will cover historic homes at a reasonable rate. The insurance companies he found are Chubb, Franklin Mutual, and National Trust Insurance Services. He forwarded the information to Mr. Hurd.

Mr. Lynch said that he has an electrician who replaced the knob and tube wiring in his historic home as well as names of craftsmen carpenters, painters, and a plumber, adding that he will put a list of the names together.

Mr. Cestaro expressed concerns with recommending contractors to owners of historic homes, unless they are vetted to be sure they are certified.

Mr. Lynch brought up the matter of the needed exterior repairs on the front porch of the Van Blarcom House on Crescent Avenue. Mr. Zmuda, who is knowledgeable in the architecture of historic homes, had provided a few options of how to repair or replace the porch columns in keeping with the time period of the home. Mr. Swenson said he recently forwarded those recommendations to the owner of the Van Blarcom House.

Mr. Lynch stated that the Historical Society would like to place a historical marker at the Sicomac Firehouse where the Sicomac School once stood. He said that he spoke with the Battalion Chief who thought the historical marker was a great idea, and he directed Mr. Lynch to speak with the grounds keeper about it. Mr. Lynch also mentioned the Pomeroy Foundation which will provide 2' by 3' historic markers in any color and design, free of charge.

Mr. Zmuda inquired about the old schoolhouse. Mayor Boonstra said that unfortunately the schoolhouse no longer exists. It was originally a schoolhouse. It then became a community club where they used to host potluck dinners, and other activities. When the need for a fire company arose, the fire house was constructed on the schoolhouse property, which was community property. Over time, the old schoolhouse building was no longer used for any activities. The Fire Company was having trouble insuring and maintaining it so unfortunately, they made a decision to tear it down about 40 years ago.

Mayor Boonstra announced that in light of it being International Woman's Day, on behalf of the Township of Wyckoff, he would like to thank the women serving on this Commission for their wonderful contributions to the Commission.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and passed unanimously. The meeting concluded at 7:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Mitchell