

**TOWNSHIP OF WYCKOFF  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
NOVEMBER 14, 2023 MEETING MINUTES**

The November 14, 2023 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 November 14, 2023 Open Public Meeting of the Wyckoff Historic Preservation Commission is now in session. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting appears on our annual schedule of meetings. A copy of said annual schedule has been posted on the bulletin board in Memorial Town Hall; a copy has been filed with the Township Clerk, The Record, The Ridgewood News, and the North Jersey Herald News – all newspapers with general circulation throughout the Township of Wyckoff. At least 48 hours prior to this meeting, the agenda thereof was similarly posted, filed, and emailed to said newspapers.

Roll Call

Present: Doug Swenson, Curtis Bajak, Steven Zmuda, Beth Van Emburgh, Joseph Cestaro, and Maureen Mitchell.

Absent: Rudy Boonstra, Patricia Constance, Richard Lynch, and Joseph Haftek.

Old Business

Approval of the September 12, 2023 meeting minutes. Ms. Van Emburgh made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Second, Mr. Zmuda. Voting in favor: all.

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

New Business

Mr. Swenson said the next project for the Commission is the research on the next batch of homes for preservation. Work sheets with photos of each of the homes have been provided to the Commission members. Mr. Swenson provided information about the Bolger Room at the Ridgewood Library, which contains a vast amount of local historical information. The Wyckoff Library also has a History Room. Mr. Bajak suggested we also may be able to obtain information about the homes by utilizing one of the genealogical data websites.

There was a discussion about the fact that some of the homes on the list have been heavily remodeled or renovated and no longer maintain their historic significance such as the building at 391 Clinton Avenue and the Auto Parts Building at 372 Franklin Avenue. Mr. Bajak pointed out that the building at 391 Clinton was actually knocked down and rebuilt so it does not need to be on the list. In contrast, Mr. Swenson said there are some homes that are not on the list prepared by the County, and they should be added for instance the home at 445 Franklin Ave. Mr. Cestaro said that the owners of 445 Franklin Avenue recently constructed a small addition to the home and chose to preserve the historic look of the home by using cedar siding instead of vinyl.

He added that it would have been cheaper to reside the entire home with vinyl than siding the small addition with cedar shakes.

Ms. Van Emburgh suggested that the first step should be to remove buildings from the list that no longer qualify, then we can add others that should be on the list, that way the list will not become too extensive. Mr. Swenson said he does not want the Commission to be constrained by the number of homes we are trying to preserve but by whether or not certain homes belong on the list. Mr. Cestaro suggested that we focus on the homes that are more at risk of being knocked down rather than the ones we know are safe.

Mr. Swenson summarized by saying that as a group, we will whittle down the list and remove the buildings that do not qualify and then figure out which homes or structures should be added to the list.

### Other Business

Mr. Swenson said he attended the meeting in Midland Park regarding the demolition of the historic home located at 60 Lake Avenue. Within a few days of that meeting, the house was knocked down. Mr. Zmuda pointed out the irony in that the warehouse building right next door to the historic home which was demolished sells antiques.

Regarding the window replacement at 310 Crescent Avenue, Mr. Swenson said the homeowner recently contacted him and said he is having trouble with getting the proposed windows from Renewal by Anderson. The homeowner is looking into finding a preservationist who will take the original windows, rework them with argon infused glass, and then put the panes back into the original window frames. They are hoping to begin replacing the windows in the spring. The homeowner is looking for recommendations for names of historic preservationists who may be able to provide estimates and undertake the project.

Mr. Zmuda asked if there has been any progress on the front porch repair of the Van Blarcom house on Crescent Ave. Mr. Swenson said he has not heard from the homeowner and the last time he drove by the porch was still being propped up with lally columns. Ms. Van Emburgh said she recently drove by the house, and it looked like they were working on it.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and passed unanimously. The meeting concluded at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maureen Mitchell  
Commission Secretary