

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

The February 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 February 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, Curtis Bajak (via phone), Steven Zmuda, Beth Van Emburgh, Joseph Haftek (via phone), Joseph Cestaro, and Maureen Mitchell.

Absent: Richard Lynch.

Old Business

The December 14, 2021 meeting minutes were approved by the Commission Members.

New Business

Mr. Swenson stated that Ms. Mitchell mailed certified letters to the owners of the fourteen (14) Wyckoff historic homes that are currently listed on the State and National Registries. Ms. Mitchell said that she received return receipts from all but three (3) properties and that one (1) letter was returned as undeliverable.

Mr. Swenson asked if the Commission has an obligation to wait for the return receipts before proceeding to the Planning Board regarding incorporating the homes into the Master Plan.

Mr. Haftek said the more conservative approach would be to wait for all of the receipts to be returned. He and Mr. Bajak were both of the opinion that the letters be resent via FedEx.

Mayor Boonstra said he or the Chairman could also hand deliver the letters to the four (4) properties. Mr. Swenson agreed and said he would hand deliver a second letter to the four (4) properties. He went on to say that he will have a conversation with Rob Fortunato, the Planning Board Chairman, to alert him to the sequence of events, and that the next step will be to present this matter to the Planning Board at an upcoming meeting.

Mayor Boonstra stated that the Township Committee is looking at a few items that need to be updated in the Master Plan including an element as far as the historic preservation goes. He added that he will keep the Commission members up to date on that matter.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Michael Hurd, the owner and occupant of 470 Wyckoff Avenue was in attendance. Mr. Hurd said he purchased the home 35 years ago because his wife wanted an old house. He spoke

about the difficulties of owning a historic home especially when it comes to repairs and renovations. Mr. Hurd said he is hopeful that what the Commission does will be helpful to people who are in the position of owning one of these historic homes specifically regarding finding craftsmen who are skilled in working on old homes. He also said it is impossible to find homeowners insurance that will cover the home due to the old knob and tube electric, which is impossible to replace without destroying the home, due to the way the home was constructed. Finally Mr. Hurd said that so that there are many unique things about historic homes, and they should be saved and preserved but if you don't own one of these homes, you have no idea what it's like to maintain it.

Mr. Zmuda asked Mr. Hurd if it would be possible to take a tour of his home at some point. Mr. Hurd said he would absolutely be open to that.

Ms. Constance said she would also like to bring a photographer on the tour to take pictures of the home for a future article in the Wyckoff Living Magazine.

Mr. Swenson said the HPC is hoping to put together a list of craftsmen and tradesmen who are skilled in working on historic homes and buildings. He added that we are aware of the difficulties of owning a historic home.

The Commission members thanked Mr. Hurd for attending the meeting and sharing interesting stories about his historic home.

CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Organizational Business

Mr. Swenson announced that the Commission Members have to appoint a Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary for 2022.

Mr. Bajak made a motion to appoint Doug Swenson as Chairman of the HPC for 2022. Second, Ms. Van Emburgh. Voting in favor: Mayor Boonstra, Mr. Zmuda, Ms. Constance, Mr. Bajak, Mr. Cestaro, Ms. Van Emburgh, Mr. Haftek, Ms. Mitchell, and Mr. Swenson.

Ms. Mitchell made a motion to appoint Pat Constance as Vice Chairwoman of the HPC for 2022. Second, Ms. Van Emburgh. Voting in favor: Mayor Boonstra, Mr. Swenson, Mr. Zmuda, Ms. Constance, Mr. Bajak, Mr. Cestaro, Ms. Van Emburgh, Mr. Haftek, and Ms. Mitchell.

Mr. Swenson made a motion to appoint Maureen Mitchell as Secretary of the HPC for 2022. Second, Ms. Van Emburgh. Voting in favor: Mayor Boonstra, Mr. Swenson, Mr. Zmuda, Ms. Constance, Mr. Bajak, Mr. Cestaro, Ms. Van Emburgh, Mr. Haftek, and Ms. Mitchell.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and passed unanimously. The meeting concluded at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Mitchell