

**TOWNSHIP OF WYCKOFF
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
APRIL 11, 2023 MEETING MINUTES**

The April 11, 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 April 11, 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: Rudy Boonstra, Township Committeeman; Doug Swenson, Patricia Constance, Joseph Cestaro, Steven Zmuda, Beth Van Emburgh, Curtis Bajak, and Maureen Mitchell.
Absent: Richard Lynch and Joseph Haftek.

Old Business

Approval of the January 10, 2023 meeting minutes. Mr. Bajak made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Second, Ms. Constance. Voting in favor: all.

New Business

The first item of business was a discussion about applying for Certified Local Government status. Mr. Swenson said the CLG program allows Historic Preservation Commissions to maintain funding and provides access to State and Federal Government. If approved, the Commission would be held to a higher standard. He added that it is a lot of work so we will have to really look at what it entails and decide if we can move forward with applying for it.

Mr. Bajak prepared a bullet-point summary of the CLG requirements. He stated that one important factor to consider is that the local government has to allocate money. Basically, the HPO provides funds in a 60% federal to 40% local government ratio.

Mr. Swenson said another hurdle is that in order to qualify, the Commission is required to appoint members who have some sort of expertise in historical preservation specifically history and/or architecture. Mr. Bajak said that there is an expectation that the Historic Preservation Commission will seek out members with some professional expertise in architectural history.

Mr. Boonstra said the Governing Body would have to create an ordinance to go along with this if the Commission wishes to pursue the certification. There would have to be a discussion as to whether this was the original intent of the Historic Preservation Commission when it was created.

Mr. Bajak said the threshold issue is going to be whether the Town is going to be able to allocate money towards the 60/40 split in funds, and hiring consultants if need be. He added that if the Town is unable to allocate the funds, there is no point in going through the difficult exercise of completing the application. Another hurdle is the fact that the Historic Preservation Ordinance is not compliant with the CLG requirements and will have to be re-written.

There was a discussion about the availability of funding and also the difficult process of completing the application for CLG, specifically with meeting all of the requirements. Mr. Swenson said he sees the work involved as a long term endeavor which we should weigh against our next move which is to get more homes added to the Master Plan in addition to the original fourteen (14) which have already been added. He went on to say that he does not want to overburden the Commission members with trying to do too much at once. He suggested that the HPC may wish to shelve the application for CLG temporarily. Mr. Boonstra said he will report on this discussion at the next Township Committee meeting to see if there is any feedback.

The next item of business was a discussion of the next group of historic homes the HPC would like to have incorporated into the Master Plan for preservation. The homes were listed in the 2000 Bergen County Historic Sites Survey. The Commission members will review the list and update information and photos as needed before presenting to the Planning Board and Township Committee for inclusion in the Master Plan. Mr. Cestaro expressed concerns about the potential number of homes worth preserving, and the slow pace of incorporating only 10 -12 at a time. Mr. Bajak said we need to triage appropriately. Mr. Swenson said the more homes we can present to the Planning Board at one time, the better off we will be. He asked the Commission members to come up with ideas as to the best way to move forward.

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

Mr. Swenson said he has not heard back from the owner of the historic home located at 250 Crescent Avenue who is in need of replacing the front porch of the home. The homeowner has taken temporary measures to shore up the roof over the entryway by adding a lally column.

Mr. Swenson mentioned the Ridgewood Water application to construct a water treatment facility at the Cedar Hill well site which is currently before the Planning Board for review. Mr. Boonstra gave a synopsis of what is being proposed at the Cedar Hill site. He added that the projects are facing delays and expenses because a State agency out of Trenton wants to search the site for arrowheads and artifacts. The artifacts agency is also going to be looking at the Goffle Brook Poultry property because the owner received a 4.3 million dollar grant to completely overhaul and improve the site.

Mr. Swenson pointed out the Wyckoff Living Magazine recently featured an article about the history of the Wyckoff Reformed Church written by Ms. Constance along with some photos. Ms. Constance said she has been reaching out to some of the other historic homeowners to see if they would like to be featured in the magazine. Ms. Van Emburgh suggested contacting the owners of the Stagg homestead on Sicomac Avenue as she believes they would be interested in being featured in the magazine. She also said the homeowners are looking for more information about their historic home since the previous owners did not share any of the information they had uncovered about the home.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and passed unanimously. The meeting concluded at 8:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Mitchell