

**Rumson Historic Preservation Commission**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of April 17, 2014**  
**Charles S. Callman Courthouse Conference Room**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Charles Shay.

**Roll Call:** Present: Planning Board Liaison Thomas Clark, Mr. James Fitzmaurice, Mr. Ross Millhiser, Chairman Charles Shay, Mrs. Roberta Van Anda and Councilman Ben Day

Absent: Councilwoman Laura Atwell and Mr. Steven Peterson.

The Chairman declared a quorum present and announced that the notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act had been met by the posting and mailing of a schedule of all regular meetings of the Historic Preservation Commission for 2014 to the *Asbury Park Press* and the *Two River Times*.

**Approval of Minutes March 20, 2014**

The minutes of the March 20, 2014 meeting were approved after a motion by Mr. Fitzmaurice which was seconded by Mr. Clark.

**Old Business**

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Shay discussed the revised list of historic homes. He asked if any members had problems accessing the emailed attachment which he sent out last month. It was conveyed that some pages were difficult to print, and Chairman Shay will look into making them more accessible.

He reported that he had met twice with former Borough Administrator Gary Sammon, and that they went through the historic property list together. He also drove around town looking at those properties that are on the first half of the list. Mr. Clark joined him on this fact-finding tour. Chairman Shay also drove around the West Park section of town. Because much of that area suffered severe damage as a result of Superstorm Sandy, Chairman Shay wanted to determine which homes, if any, on the historic property list may have been demolished and replaced by new structures.

Mr. Clark reported that the Planning Board has been notified about an older home on Bingham Avenue which the owners may seek to subdivide the property. A subdivision could result in the demolition of the 1905 home. Mr. Clark will keep the Commission advised.

Mr. Shay reiterated that the chief objective is to identify the 100 year old homes and find a way to present this information to the public. Councilman Day suggested that we seek input from the Borough employees Marie Kahlthau, Sabine O'Connor and Helen Graves. They know the owners of Rumson homes and should be able to help us determine if the homes are still historic or replacements.

### **Sub-Committee Reports**

#### **Historic Property Catalogue**

Mr. Fitzmaurice reported that he has a great deal of information and photographs that still need to be organized according to block and lot. Chairman Shay offered to attend if Mr. Fitzmaurice convenes a meeting to organize the materials that he has put together. Councilman Day was questioned about the best method of saving all of this material electronically. He offered to have everything sent to him so that he can put it all into a data base/Excel spreadsheet. It will be organized by lot and block and any other criteria that we select.

#### **Historic Preservation Commission Website**

Mr. Clark asked if the electronic data could also be conveyed to a map, and Councilman Day said that this definitely can be done. Councilman Day said that all of the research that has been done is exactly what the Borough Council wants. Mr. Shay reported that he had studied the 1903 PLAT map, and that it had been useful.

Chairman Shay commended Mr. Fitzmaurice for all of the effort that he has put into this project and thanked him on behalf of the entire Commission.

#### **Communication with Council and Board**

Mr. Clark reported that he is working on re-aligning the mission statement and objectives and will have them for review at the next meeting.

#### **Quarterly Report**

Chairman Shay told the Commission members that he will present a Quarterly Report at an upcoming Borough Council work session.

#### **Minutes and Agenda to Website**

The secretary was advised to send the minutes of the March 20, 2014 meeting to Councilman Day for posting on the Borough website.

### **State Historic Preservation Commission**

Mr. Millhiser was asked to keep current on the State Historic Preservation Commission.

### **New Business**

Councilman Day was invited to the meeting for the purpose of brainstorming together about how the Commission can relay information to the community through the Borough website. He told us that the Borough is getting new software that will work well with the information that we are putting together. Chairman Shay asked if there would be any cost to the Borough due to the work that we hope to accomplish. He did not want to cost the taxpayers any money. Councilman Day answered that he plans to create a simple database for our information. He was given a sample page that Mr. Fitzmaurice created to use as a model. He suggested that the Commission members send him the data as it is finished rather than waiting for the entire project to be complete before sending it to him. Mr. Fitzmaurice asked if the Borough website would host a link to the Historic Preservation Commission, and Councilman Day answered that this is not exactly the plan yet. Chairman Shay asked where the data will be stored. Councilman Day said that he will talk to Borough Administrator Rogers to ensure a place on the Borough's server and to back it up on a "sky drive". Mr. Clark asked about having a separate section on the Borough website for the Historic Preservation Commission.

In reference to the document containing suggestions from former Commission member Peter Goodhue, it was decided to turn that over to Councilwoman Atwell and Mr. Clark to review in their committee.

### **Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday May 15, 2014 at 6:00 PM.

The catalogue sub-committee will meet on Wednesday, May 7 at 6:00 PM at the Courthouse meeting room. The meeting will be advertised as a work session. Chairman Shay, Mr. Fitzmaurice, Mr. Peterson, Mr. Millhiser and Mr. Clark plan to attend.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 PM by a motion by Chairman Shay seconded by Mr. Fitzmaurice.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta H. Van Anda, Secretary