

**Rumson Historic Preservation Commission**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of June 16, 2016**  
**Charles S. Callman Courthouse Conference Room**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Charles Shay.

- 2. Roll Call:** Present: Chairman Charles Shay, Vice Chairman Thomas Clark, Councilwoman Laura Atwell, Mr. Ross Millhiser, Mrs. Laura Gill Tooker, Mr. Steve Peterson, and Mr. Jim Fitzmaurice.

The Chairman declared a quorum present and announced that the notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act had been met by posting and mailing of a schedule of all regular meetings of the Historic Preservation Commission for 2016 to the Asbury Park Press, the Two Rivers Times and the Rumson Borough Website.

**3. Approval of May 19, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2016 meeting minutes was made by Mr. Peterson and seconded by Mr. Fitzmaurice. Chairman Shay to forward to Councilman Day for posting on Borough Website.

**4. Chairman's Report**

Several resource books were recommended on the history of Rumson by a resident. The books are on loan to Chairman Shay from Oceanic Library and one contains the list of all persons buried in the Cemetery on Rumson Road and Conover Lane. These research publications will assist the Commission in gathering information on the history of the cemetery. Chairman Shay provided the information below on the history of the Borough of Rumson Seal, as described on Page 127 of first History of Rumson publication (1944).

"SEAL OF THE BOROUGH OF RUMSON"

(By the Seal Committees: Mrs. Edgar A. Knapp, Mrs. Leighton Lobdell, J. Edward Wilson, and  
Van R. Halsey, Chairman)

"The design which appears on the cover of this history is the official seal of the Borough of Rumson. This seal was formally adopted by the governing body. Previously, the Borough of Rumson did not have an official seal other than the ordinary seal of the corporate type, and the Mayor appointed a committee on November 6, 1943, to develop a design which would have

historic significance and heraldic symbols combined in appropriate form. After months of research, Mrs. Edgar A. Knapp, a member of the committee, made preliminary drawings and as a result of several meetings, the final design was unanimously recommended by the committee."

"The basic framework of the design is a shield with chevron and is similar to that of the English arms of Monmouth, England. The two groups of wavy lines are the heraldic symbols for water and represent the two rivers which are boundaries of the Borough of Rumson. In the upper corners of the shield are symbols representing plows which have been taken from the great seal of the State of New Jersey and signify the rural character of our community and the fertility of the land. At the bottom of the shield appears an Indian head done in the likeness of the Lenni-Lenape Indians who originally lived on the land which is now Rumson. The head-dress shown is characteristic of the tribe. The crest represents an osprey or fishhawk, a bird indigenous to this part of the country. In the circle surrounding the shield and crest are to be found three characters of symbols adopted from those appearing in the Walum Olum which was the Lenni-Lenapes' Pictographic Book of Sacred Writings. These characters mean: "In those days all men were friendly".

A request for the Rumson town motto was received by the Commission and after research was conducted it was determined that there is no known town motto.

#### **5. Mid-Year Submissions for HPC website**

All sub-committees will have drafts of new information for the website by the July 2016 meeting. Final website updates will be reviewed and made ready for submission to Councilman Day to upload to the website in September 2016

- Link to Department of Interior site for Historic Home renovation/restoration guidelines added to References
- Link to National Registry of Historical Places
- Links to MCHC and MCHA to be added to References
- Copy of original deed of the land sale between Rumson settlers and the Lenape Indians
- Additional reference materials to be added to site – new research publications

#### **6. Zoning Board Permit Form**

Mr. Clark awaiting response from Borough as to when the new application with HPC questions will be launched.

#### **7. Sub Committee Updates**

- Gone but Not Forgotten button to utilize published histories of homes; where none noted to write up brief history and description; minor historical homes to have a photo.
- Map with overlay of historical home delayed till 2017.
- Award criteria to be finalized by Mr. Fitzmaurice and Mr. Clark and to be uploaded to the website in September 2016
- Borough Newsletter on track for Q4
- Glossary of styles to be updated with new photographs

**8. Other Historical News**

- Several members to visit Cobble Close Farm after June meeting and provide comments at the July meeting
- Article by Louise Brooks on the history of Sea Bright Lawn Tennis & Cricket Club will be published in the Rumson Journal shortly

**9. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 21, 2016 at 6:00 PM

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 PM after a motion by Mr. Millhiser and seconded by Mr. Fitzmaurice.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Tooker, Secretary