

**Rumson Historic Preservation Commission**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of November 20, 2014**  
**Charles S. Callman Courthouse Conference Room**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM by Chairman Charles Shay.

**Roll Call:** Present: Councilwoman Laura Atwell, Planning Board Liaison/Vice Chairman Thomas Clark, Mr. James Fitzmaurice, Mr. Ross Millhiser, Mr. Steven Peterson, Chairman Charles Shay, and Mrs. Roberta Van Anda

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 of October 16, 2014**

The minutes of the October 16, 2014 meeting were approved after a motion by Mr. Clark, which was seconded by Mr. Peterson.

**Old Business**

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Shay discussed the Commission goals. He said that the goal has been to create a list of as many 100 year old homes as possible, and he hopes to have a working list within the next two weeks. He will inform the Borough Council, but he is not ready to go public with the information yet. This list will be a work in progress for the immediate future.

Mr. Clark discussed his concern that a large number of buildings have been demolished during the past year. He is seeking a list of all of the buildings that have come down so that it can be compared to the Commission's historic property list.

Mr. Peterson and Mr. Fitzmaurice reported that the nearly complete Historic Property list is still a first draft and will need to be 'polished' before it can be placed on the Historic Preservation Commission's page on the Borough website.

Mr. Clark said that it is important that we do not release the historic property list to the public until the Borough Council has reviewed it and a legal

review has been accomplished. An architectural review may be required, but it would require approval from the Council.

## **Sub-Committee Reports**

### **Historic Property Catalogue**

Mr. Fitzmaurice discussed the difficulty of determining architectural styles for the houses being reviewed. The details and elements that determine architectural styles are not definitive in many of the Rumson properties. Houses have elements of various styles, and this makes it difficult to categorize them. Mr. Peterson said that it may be necessary to create a “booklet” on the website that defines the elements and how the choice of category was determined for some properties.

Chairman Shay introduced a discussion on the need to determine goals for 2015. One goal discussed was defining Rumson home styles. Councilwoman Atwell suggested a page on design to be included as a part of the Historic Preservation Commission site. The page would have a letter from the Commission stating the goal of the site. It could have photographs of homes and a brief description of each architectural style. The goal would be to have a design layout created for the HPC page on the Borough website. Mrs. Van Anda suggested that a goal should be made to create a list of incentives that might help homeowners make a decision to preserve rather than demolish Rumson’s older homes. Councilwoman Atwell suggested having a meeting with the Council to discuss items for the list.

The Rumson Improvement Association was discussed. This was an organization of the last century that did many projects to enhance the Borough of Rumson. A filebox containing their minutes and information is stored at Mr. Millhiser’s home, and it was agreed that he and Mrs. Van Anda will go through the files at their earliest convenience.

### **Historic Preservation Commission Website**

The website was discussed with other topics in the previous category.

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

Vice Chairman Clark informed the Commission that, because the Zoning Board meets earlier in the month than the HPC, it might behoove the Commission to reschedule its meeting dates to earlier in the month or at least to try to get agendas sooner. Councilwoman Atwell suggested the second Thursday of the month, and this was agreed upon. Chairman Shay will discuss this potential change with the Borough Council.

## **Minutes and Agenda to Website**

The Secretary was advised to send the minutes of the October 16, 2014 meeting to Councilman Day for posting on the Borough website.

### **State Historic Preservation Commission**

Mr. Millhiser reported that he attended a meeting of the historical organization in Freehold. He stated that it was interesting and worthwhile, but nothing was discussed that pertained to Rumson.

### **New Business**

Vice Chairman Clark reported that there were 6 items relating to old properties on the most recent Zoning Board meeting, and two were seeking to replace them with new construction. He suggested that we consider meeting with realtors to encourage them to avoid labeling older homes as “tear-downs”.

Chairman Shay summarized the meeting and reminded members that there must be work on determining architectural styles of homes and a design layout. He also will look into moving the meeting date until the second Thursday of each month. He reminded members to have ideas for 2015 goals ready for the next meeting.

### **Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday **December 18, 2014 at 6:00 PM.**

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 PM by a motion by Vice Chairman Clark seconded by Mr. Fitzmaurice.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta H. Van Anda, Secretary