In order to recognize the efforts of those involved in preserving our unique architectural resources, the Historic Preservation Commission instituted an annual awards program in 2017. This year, three awards were presented in recognition of Stewardship, Preservation Champion, and Sympathetic/Sensitive Addition.

Randall Gabrielan – Preservation Champion
Mr. Gabrielan turned his avocation of local history into a second career and has written numerous historical books, articles and research reports that include many Rumson properties. He has served over thirteen years as Executive Director of the Monmouth County Historical Commission in Freehold and is currently the Commission Vice-Chairman. In addition, Mr. Gabrielan serves as the County’s appointed historian.

When the Historic Preservation Commission first embarked on the mission to catalog and review our town’s inventory of historic and significant buildings Mr. Gabrielan’s books were an invaluable resource, both as a reference and an architectural style guide. His books on Rumson are noted as references on the Historic Preservation Commission website: http://www.rumsonnj.gov/rhpc

We owe Mr. Gabrielan a great debt of gratitude for his passion and commitment to the history of not only Rumson, but many of our surrounding towns.

John and Marjorie Tedesco – Stewardship
Driving down West River Road, one passes a spectacular carriage house festively decorated during the holiday season. This 1889 carriage house and two other buildings also dating to 1889 are located at 90 West River Road and owned by John and Marjorie Tedesco. In addition to the carriage house, there is a working carousel in the old stables and a caretaker’s cottage that houses a private chapel.

The architect for the estate on the property was William Welles Bosworth of Bosworth & Holden in New York, who originally designed the buildings for Edwin Drexel Godfrey, who was tied by marriage to the Hoaglands who owned Auldwood, another magnificent estate in Rumson. While the original main house on the property was lost in a fire, the Tedesco’s rebuilt a beautiful home on the property twenty-five years ago. Fortunately, the three 1889 buildings remained and have been painstakingly restored and maintained by the Tedesco’s.

Rumson is fortunate for the dedication and commitment of their stewardship that has preserved a part of Rumson history when large and magnificent estates were abundant.

Jon and Lauren Carras – Sympathetic/Sensitive Addition
30 Lafayette Street in Rumson is a Victorian home built in 1887. When Jon and Lauren Carras bought it in 2011, the home had fallen into disrepair. The plaster walls were caving in, the porch was starting to collapse and the home needed a total gut renovation.

Looking to expand the home, the Carras’ designed an addition that would seamlessly incorporate a third turret on the back of the house to mirror the two original ones on the front of the house. The home was stripped of all siding and the addition was added to the back of the home. Then new cedar shingles were put up so that the home had a uniform look that would age appropriately and wouldn’t look like an addition was ever done in the first place.

As a finishing touch, gas lights were added on both sides of the original front door to flicker beneath the stained glass windows that may have been taken out of a local church when the home was originally built.
FLOODING – PUBLIC AWARENESS

When flooding affects you or your property some important things to consider include:

• Know your flood hazard. Is your property subject to flooding? Are you in a repetitively flooded area?

• Insure your property according to the likelihood of a flood. Property owners as well as tenants should purchase flood insurance to protect their property.

• Protect yourself from flood hazards. Don’t drive or enter a flooded area. Turn around, don’t drown.

• Protect your property from flood hazards. Replaced your flooded furnace with one elevated above the flood level. Keep debris and trash out of streams and ditches.

• Build responsibly. Contact the Borough before you build to discuss flood hazards and how address flooding in your property or building design.

• Protect natural floodplain functions. Don’t allow pollutants to enter the storm drains; they drain to waterways. Report broken silt fences; they help keep our streams clean.

• To download the Flood Awareness Guide Brochure go to: