

Rumson Historic Preservation Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of February 12, 2015
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: Councilwoman Laura Atwell, 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 2015 to the *Asbury Park Press*, the *Two River Times* and the Rumson Borough Website.

Approval of Minutes of January 8, 2015

The minutes of the January 8, 2015 meeting were approved by a motion made by Mr. Fitzmaurice and seconded by Mrs. Van Anda. Mrs. Van Anda was asked to forward them to Councilman Day for posting on the Borough Website.

Chairman's Report

A. Meeting with Rumson Borough Council

Chairman Shay's report began with compliments to Mr. Millhiser on his appointment as 2nd Vice President of the Monmouth County Historical Association. He then complimented Mr. Fitzmaurice on the sculpture that he created for St. George's-by-the-River. The artwork was dedicated on Sunday, February 8.

Chairman Shay then reported on his meeting with the Mayor and Council on June 20, 2015. He said that there were compliments on the success of last year's goals and the selection of the 2015 goals. There were no questions or objections. In discussion about the historic property list, there was a hope that it could be completed and made public soon. Mr. Peterson suggested that there may be some logic to putting the list out in blocks rather than waiting for the finished product. Members commented positively on this suggestion.

Chairman Shay informed the members that he had ordered and received two copies of *How to Read Houses*, a book about determining architectural styles of buildings. These books were purchased for use by commission members.

Mr. Fitzmaurice discussed frame prices for the Rumson map that he has created. The hope is to have the framed map on display in the Court House meeting room to assist the Commission in its work. He is going to continue to shop for prices.

Mr. Shay and Mr. Clark reported that they had been interviewed by *Red Bank Green* Editor John Ward.

B. Sub Committee Reports

1. Enhance the HPC Website (Mr. Peterson, Mr. Millhiser)

Mr. Peterson and Mr. Millhiser reported that they have been researching websites from other communities in order to find a model or ideas for the HPC site. They want something that is friendly, tells a story quickly and is user-friendly. They have not found an admirable model. The goal is to create something with an architectural section for residents to use as a resource. A side by side catalogue and rationale is also to be considered. Mr. Shay suggested getting our Borough Webmaster, Mr. Ben Day, into the discussion. Councilwoman Atwell suggested checking the County Historical Association website.

2. Website Content Committee (Mr. Fitzmaurice, Councilwoman Atwell)

Mr. Fitzmaurice reported on his committee meeting with Councilwoman Atwell. There was discussion of the fact that many of these committees are interconnected.

The meeting resulted in a list of suggestions for the website. It should have a section with a welcome from the Commission, a list of the members and the mission statement. There should be an interactive possibility so that residents can reach out to the Commission. The hope is to create links with references to architectural styles to enable further research on those styles. Featuring an historic home on a quarterly rotation is a possibility. Links to "Historic Homes of the Past" articles are also planned. It is hoped that the website can be launched when the Historic Property list is ready.

3. Incentives Committee (Vice-Chairman Clark, Mr. Peterson)

Vice Chairman Clark reported that his committee has looked into HUD funding and the possibility that any of its programs might be applicable to

Rumson. The committee is also researching the NJ DEP's Historic Preservation Office literature to see if that agency has programs applicable to Rumson. They also intend to look into what other towns are doing. The goal is to explore opportunities for incentives to preserve historic properties.

4. Communications Committee (Mrs. Atwell, Mrs. Van Anda)

Mrs. Atwell reported on her Committee's planning meeting. She reported that the Borough is going to be sending one topic newsletters to residents, and they may be useful for the HPC. She would like to encourage residents to get involved in local history by providing copies of letters, photos and historical material pertaining to historic properties for the George Moss History Room at Borough Hall. The Committee suggested meeting with local real estate office managers to announce the HPC website. If the real estate offices could notify the HPC of new listings of historic properties, it could give the Commission advance notice on endangered homes. It is also considered that the realtors will benefit from the historic property list and research on the website. An open house event to launch the website and provide guest speakers on Rumson history was also discussed. Vice Chairman Clark mentioned the nice job that is being done on restoring an older home on Lafayette Street. The house (30 Lafayette St. Block 28 Lot 6) is on our list of historically significant properties. Meeting with the owners could provide a good picture of what it takes to save an old house rather than raze it. Mr. Fitzmaurice suggested awards for people who have restored Rumson's historic properties.

5. Team with other Groups Committee (Mr. Millhiser, Mr. Clark)

Mr. Millhiser reported that in order for his sub-committee to team with other groups it would be beneficial to compile a list of state, county and local historic commissions. Once the list is completed, we can then decide which groups would be best to approach. Mr. Peterson suggested that the Commission and its website could be a resource for people who are restoring older homes and that we could explore teaming with area businesses and workmen to offer discounts and incentives to those restoring rather than replacing older homes.

6. Chronicle/Record/Document Committee (Mrs. Van Anda, Mr. Fitzmaurice)

Mrs. Van Anda reported on the meeting of her sub-committee. When the sub-committee receives notification of planned demolition of at-risk properties, photographs and historical data will be compiled for each property. To date, Mr. Fitzmaurice has documented two homes that are in the process of demolition. One is located on North Ward Avenue, and the other is at the corner of River Road and 3rd Street. At this time, two critical properties are

listed and possibly in danger. The property on the northwest corner of Church Street and Bingham Avenue and the adjacent house are both on the market. They may date to the Colonial era. Still to be determined is how and where to store the documented information and in what format. The Commission's use of the Borough's history room was also discussed.

New Business

A. Liaison Reports

Vice Chairman Clark, Planning Board Liaison, reported that 76 Waterman Avenue is set to be razed. It dates to 1904 but was modified and probably storm damaged. 30 Lafayette Street, Block 28 Lot 6, is on the list of historically significant properties. It was suggested that we invite the newest Borough Council member to a meeting in order to ask him about his former position heading the Zoning Board. Councilwoman Atwell did not have a report.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12, 2015 at 6:00 PM.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM after a motion by Mr. Peterson and a second by Vice Chairman Clark.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta H. Van Anda, Secretary