

**Rumson Historic Preservation Commission**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of May 21, 2015**  
**Charles S. Callman Courthouse Conference Room**

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Roll Call:** Present: Chairman Charles Shay, Vice Chairman Thomas Clark, Councilwoman Laura Atwell, 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.

**3. Approval of Minutes of April 9, 2015**

The minutes of the April 9, 2015 meeting were approved by a motion made by Councilwoman Atwell and seconded by Mr. Peterson. Mrs. Van Anda was asked to forward them to Councilman Day for posting on the Borough Website.

**4. Old Business**

**A. Chairman's Report**

**1. Website Launch Activity**

Vice-Chairman Clark presented an update on the status of plans for the Historic Preservation Commission website launch. Mr. Clark reported that Mr. Fitzmaurice has updated the inventory of historic homes. His team has met and made progress. The project is on schedule.

**B. Sub Committee Reports**

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

Mr. Peterson reported on his committee's progress to create the HPC Website. This committee is on schedule.

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

Councilwoman Atwell reported that the Website Content Committee has met and is on schedule.

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

Vice Chairman Clark reported that he is looking into information about the New Jersey Historic Preservation office. Mr. Peterson reported that there are many corporate incentives available for homeowners who are saving historic homes. It is hoped that these sources can be linked from the HPC website.

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

Councilwoman Atwell reported that her committee will meet to work on the text for the website newsletter.

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

Mr. Millhiser scheduled a meeting of his committee with Chairman Shay for Thursday, June 4 at 3:00 pm in the George Moss History Room of the Borough Hall.

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

The VNA Show House fire was discussed. Randall Gabriellan has done a history of that property, Blythewood. HPC will record this information.

**5. New Business**

**A. Liaison Reports**

Vice Chairman Clark, Planning Board Liaison, informed the Commission that the Zoning Board noted that one Rumson house was demolished. It was not on the historic property inventory list.

Councilwoman Atwell said that the Council scheduled a meeting in June for the Quarterly Report from the Historic Preservation Commission.

### **B. Guests**

Rumson residents Mr. and Mrs. John Wurch attended the meeting to discuss their decisions relating to historic homes that they have owned. Their home in Bernardsville was an historic home, which they restored. They have also restored an historic home in Seaside Park. When they purchased their home in Rumson, it was with the intent to restore. Due to the overall condition of the home, they made the decision to remove it and build a new structure.

They discussed factors that influenced their renovation decisions:

- A strong historical society and local dedication to preservation is influential.
- Education is important: being in a neighborhood where other owners are committed to preservation matters.
- Even small tax incentives for restoration may influence decisions.
- If a façade is kept historic and there is flexibility on modernizing, owners may decide to restore rather than replace.
- There may be hidden costs that could be sizeable, to demolition that might come as a surprise.

Chairman Shay thanked the Mr. and Mrs. Wurch for sharing their experiences and would welcome them back to future meetings.

### **Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 18, 2015 at 6:00 PM.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM after a motion by Vice Chairman Clark seconded by Mr. Peterson.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta H. Van Anda, Secretary