

Approved 1/9/14



THPC Minutes of December 5, 2013

Introduction

The regular meeting of the Tenafly Historic Preservation Commission was held on Thursday, December 5, 2013 at the Tenafly Municipal Center in the Conference Room. Chairperson Wall called the meeting to order at 8:15 pm and read the Open Public Meeting Notice P.L. 1975, Chap. 231 NJSA 10:4-6 in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, P. L. 1975, Chapter 231. He said the notice requirements have been satisfied. Meeting dates for the year are confirmed at the Annual Meeting, and posted on the public bulletin board in the lobby of the Municipal Center and published in the Press Journal and the Record within the first 10 days of the New Year. Copies of all revised or additional meeting notices are sent via fax to the Press Journal, The Record, Suburbanite and Northern Valley News and are posted on the public bulletin board in the lobby of the Municipal Center. He also distributed the agenda, copies of correspondence and circulated other materials received by the THPC.

Roll Call

Present: David Wall, Karen Neus, Michael Barone, Rita Heller, Sereno Danese, Mario Turchi, Don Merino and Planning Board Liaison, Kevin Tremble.

Absent: Council Rep. Martha Kerge

Public Hearing on Issue of Whether to Recommend to Governing Body to Designate 53 Knickerbocker Road a Landmark with Opportunity to Public to Speak

Mr. Wall read the public notice for the above referenced hearing. He said that the public notice for the hearing was published with a map of the property showing its boundaries in the Friday, November 22, 2013 issue of the Record newspaper. The notice provided that in compliance with Chapter XXXV, Article VIII, Section 807 of the Code of the Borough of Tenafly, Subsection 807.7, notice was given that the Historic Preservation Commission would consider the nomination of 53 Knickerbocker Road (Block 602, Lot 9), known as the 'Mackay - Lowe Estate' as an historic landmark at a

Approved 1/9/14

Historic Preservation Commission  
December 5, 2013  
Page 2

public hearing on Thursday, December 5, 2013 at 8 P.M. in the conference room in Borough Hall at 100 Riveredge Road. The block and lot numbers of the surrounding properties were stated in the notice as well as a statement that all interested persons were entitled to present their opinions, suggestions or objections at the hearing and were encouraged to do so.

Mr. Wall noted that both owners of the property had received a letter via certified mail giving them notice of this meeting. He advised the board and the public that requests had been received from David Watkins, Esq., currently attorney for the co-owners asking for an adjournment or continuation of the hearing. A phone conversation was held among Mr. Wall, Mr. Watkins and Borough Attorney William McClure to discuss this request. The mayor was also present. It was decided that the hearing would be adjourned until January 9, 2014, as requested by Mr. Watkins, and that any defects in the service of notice of the hearing would be waived. The public was told that they could return on January 9<sup>th</sup> for the hearing. No further notice was required.

A motion was made by Dr. Merino and seconded by Dr. Heller to open the meeting to the public for comments. A voice vote carried the motion. All voted in favor; none were opposed.

#### Public Comments

Mr. David Perskie of Knickerbocker Road and several other residents who did not state his/her names had questions regarding ramifications of designating a property historic, the process for designation, impacts on property values and benefits to an owner. All questions were answered to satisfaction. It was noted for the public that there is a booklet for reference at the Borough Hall Front desk or the Tenafly Public Library entitled "Tenafly Design Guidelines for Landmarks and Historic Districts". A color copy of this document can also be purchased for \$25.00.

A motion was made by Dr. Merino and seconded by Mr. Turchi to close this portion of the meeting to the public. A voice vote carried the motion. All voted in favor; none were opposed.

#### Circa Signs

These signs have been delivered to Borough Hall. A homeowner pays for the sign; it is ordered for them by the Historic Preservation Commission and then delivered by a member of the commission. Ms. Neus indicated that initial publicity included using a display case in the library. She would like to see a targeted mailing. There was much discussion about getting the word out on this project. Mrs. Nicolosi suggested a press release and an article in the next issue of the Borough newsletter. Nick Stefanowicz, student liaison to the Historic Preservation Commission, will compose an article and forward it to the Borough Administrator. The press release will be composed and sent to Mrs. Nicolosi for forwarding to the local newspapers and cable outlets.

Approved 1/9/14

Historic Preservation Commission  
December 5, 2013  
Page 3

### Roosevelt Monument Storyboards

Mr. Danese removed the two (2) existing signs from Roosevelt Common and dropped same off at the DPW. The commission is looking for replacements for both signs. Mr. Tremble noted that he believes he can access the artwork and obtained a quote from Fossil Graphics.

A motion was made by Dr. Merino and seconded by Mr. Danese to authorize Dr. Heller to encumber an amount not to exceed \$800.00 for the replacement of these signs. A voice vote carried the motion. All voted in favor; none were opposed.

### Roosevelt Monument

The board discussed at great length the extensive damage to the Roosevelt Monument. It was suggested that motion detectors be installed to deter vandalism. Unfortunately, discussion with the borough's electrician, Ken Riley, suggested that this is not a viable option. Board members would like to see Robert Carpenter teach another class in the middle school about the significance of the monument. The cost for his services for a day would be approximately \$600.00. A proposal is expected from Ken Riley on restoring the monument lighting. An estimate in the amount of \$3,250.00 was received from Robert Carpenter to restore the damaged portions of the Roosevelt Monument. This estimate will be forwarded to Borough Administrator Jewel Thompson-Chin.

Board members would like to see an expert retained for the special hearing on 53 Knickerbocker Road. A motion was made by Dr. Merino and seconded by Dr. Heller to authorize Chairman David Wall to retain an expert for a fee not to exceed \$3,000.00. A voice vote carried the motion. All voted in favor; none were opposed.

### Speech at Kaplan Jewish Community Center

Mr. Wall noted that he will be giving a speech and a slideshow at the Jewish Community Center on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.

### Sickels-Melbourne House

The order has been submitted for the Sickels-Melbourne House sign. Delivery is being held until the wording for the Stanton House sign is completed. The Tenafly Railroad Station sign is in need of refurbishment also.

### Certificates of Appropriateness

Mr. Wall noted that he had an application for 167 Serpentine Road. Old shingles on the roof were replaced. The gingerbread and the letter "A" over the porch would not be disturbed. There was some discussion of the application form which was used.

Approved 1/9/14

Historic Preservation Commission

December 5, 2013

Page 4

Apparently, there is a newer version which should be distributed in the future.

#### Budget

Dr. Heller reviewed the proposed budget for 2014 with the board. She noted that she will encumber those monies earmarked for projects so as to preserve the board's funding for those items.

#### Miscellaneous Items

Mrs. Neus advised the board that she would be out of town for the meeting on January 9, 2014.

It was noted that an application on 46 Park Street had been heard this past Monday by the Board of Adjustment. The Historic Preservation Commission did not have an opportunity to comment on the application. All applications received under the Municipal Land Use Law by both the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment which involve historic sites identified in the Master Plan should be forwarded to the Historic Preservation Commission for review and comment. Mrs. Nicolosi will contact Ms. Graham, Secretary to the Board of Adjustment, to determine the outcome of the meeting and will advise the board members.

The board indicated its desire to revisit the designation of Park Street. This matter will be placed on a future agenda for discussion.

There was discussion regarding an insert in the latest issue of the *Tenaflly Suburbanite*. The brochure entitled "Tenaflly Community Guide 2013", was published in cooperation with the Tenaflly Chamber of Commerce. An article indicated that tours were available for designated historic homes. This is false information. These are private homes. The Chamber of Commerce will be notified about this false information and urged to correct it in the future.

It was noted that Sandy Divack-Moss and neighbors in the Westervelt area would like to meet with members of the Historic Preservation Commission to discuss designation of that area.

Mr. Tremble asked if members of the Historic Preservation Commission would like to set up a meeting with the Planning Board to jointly address some issues regarding land use in the Borough. There was an article in a recent issue of The Planner regarding overlay districts, preservation/development districts and transfer development rights. There was no consensus about meeting with the Planning Board.

Approved 1/9/14

Historic Preservation Commission  
December 5, 2013  
Page 5

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Danese and seconded by Mr. Turchi to adjourn the meeting at 10:08 p.m. A voice vote carried the motion. All voted in favor; none were opposed.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie B. Nicolosi  
Acting Historic Preservation Secretary