



THPC Minutes of November 7, 2013

Introduction

The regular meeting of the Tenafly Historic Preservation Commission was held on Thursday, November 7, 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, 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, and Planning Board Liaison, Kevin Tremble.

Absent: Don Merino, Council Rep. Martha Kerge was absent due to conflict with Mayor & Council meeting being held at the same time

Mackay-Lowe Estate

Mr. Wall noted that a letter dated October 8, 2013, from David M. Watkins, Esq. had been received by Dr. Heller regarding 53 Knickerbocker Road. Mr. Watkins represents Mr. Jeffrey Clyman, owner of the property. Mr. Watkins indicated that he reviewed the Historical Report submitted by T. Robins Brown and his client "takes exception to the Report as it related to his property for numerous reasons, which include but are not limited to the modifications made to the house over the years that dilute its historical significance." "Mr. Clyman objects to the inclusion of his property and will fight any effort by your commission to deem the property as historic."

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Mr. Wall noted that he sent a letter to Mr. Watkins dated October 23, 2013, advising him that 53 Knickerbocker Road would be listed on the agenda for the Historic Preservation Commission's meeting of Thursday, November 7, 2013, at 8:00 p.m. and that action on the matter may or may not be taken.

Mr. Wall further indicated that discussion would take place this evening as to whether to nominate the property as an historic landmark and set a date for a hearing on the issue.

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

Public Comments

The following individuals voiced concerns:

- Mark Greenberg, Esq., an associate in the law office of David Watkins, Esq. Closter Dock Road, Closter, NJ, voiced his objection to the designation on behalf of his client
- Stanley Heller, Marcotte Lane, Tenafly, NJ, voiced his approval that the subject property should be designated as historic

Dr. Heller, Mr. Wall and Mrs. Neus commented on the historical nature of the property, the report prepared by T. Robins Brown from Bergen County, articles written about the property in architectural magazines, ownership history of the property, preservation guidelines and the mission of the Historic Preservation Commission.

A motion was made by Dr. Heller 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.

A motion was made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mrs. Neus to move that there be a public hearing on December 5, 2013, at 8:00 p.m. in the Conference Room on the issue of whether 53 Knickerbocker Road should be nominated for designation as an historic landmark by the governing body following the recommendations of the Planning Board. A voice vote carried the motion. All voted in favor; none were opposed.

The board took a brief recess.

Certificates of Appropriateness:

Mr. Wall noted that a Certificate of Appropriateness was approved for 54 Magnolia Avenue (Queen Anne Victorian) to replace the front chimney.

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Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Mr. Danese to approve the minutes of October 3, 2013 minutes approved as written. A voice vote carried the motion. All voted in favor; none were opposed.

Roosevelt Monument

Mr. Tremble reported on the extensive damage to the Roosevelt Monument. There is much graffiti, poor repairs have been made to the steps (perhaps by the Department of Public Works staff), the landscaping is in need of trimming, the accent lighting has been damaged, and part of the wall has been displaced from the stones on the north side of the monument. It was unclear who made the repairs to the monument; however, said repairs were not done using the specific guidelines for such repairs.

It was suggested that Robert Carpenter be contacted to give an estimate to remove the graffiti and do some of the reparations to the monument. There was also some discussion that perhaps Mr. Carpenter should teach another middle school class to educate today's youth about historic structures. Mrs. Neus will contact with an art teacher to discuss teaching this class. Another suggestion was that there should be a class for Borough staff. Mr. Riley, an electrician the Borough uses often, will be contacted for a quote to repair the accent lighting. Board members voiced concern that there should be vandal-resistant lighting, motion detectors and spotlights at the monument. A quote will be obtained for this as well. Additional monies should be put into the HPC budget for next year for repairs to the Roosevelt Monument. It was suggested that the DPW provide for the repairs in its budget as well, if that department was responsible for the incorrect repairs to the structure.

A motion was made by Mrs. Neus and seconded by Mr. Turchi to authorize Mr. Wall to accept reasonable quotations for the above work for repairs from both gentlemen to an amount not exceeding \$1,000.00 in total for both projects. A voice vote carried the motion. All voted in favor; none were opposed. The proposals will be brought back to the board for its December meeting. Mrs. Nicolosi will provide Mr. Wall with contact information for both Messrs. Carpenter and Riley to obtain quotes for services.

Blue Signs

Mrs. Neus reported that a blue marker has been ordered for 48 Knoll Road. She is currently revising the text for the Elizabeth Cady Stanton sign. There was much discussion on this topic.

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Circa Plaques

These plaques will be ready in approximately two (2) weeks. They are being shipped to Borough Hall. The HPC will distribute. These signs should be promoted via the newspaper and Borough newsletter to owners of older homes in the Borough. This topic will be added to the December agenda.

Budget

Dr. Heller reviewed the proposed budget for 2014 with the board. It was suggested that additional funds in the amount of \$5,000 be requested for Cleaning & Maintenance of Historic Buildings/Structures, \$2,500 be requested for other professional fees and \$4,000 be requested for consultants/legal services.

Railroad Station Repairs

Mr. Wall reported that he had several photos depicting the repairs needed to the Railroad Station. He asked that all board members forward directly to him whatever photos they have and indicate via email any repairs they believe should be made. He, in turn, will forward an all-inclusive email to both Mrs. Thompson-Chin, Borough Administrator, and Bob Beutel, DPW Director.

Roosevelt Common Colored Information Panels

These information panels (called story boards) should be replaced. Mr. Danese will measure the panels and Dr. Heller will contact Fossil Graphics for a quote. The cost is believed to be approximately \$600.00 for two (2) color inserts.

Planning Board Update

Mr. Tremble advised the board members that there is an application scheduled for a hearing with the Planning Board for rooftop telephone equipment on a building at 15 W. Railroad Avenue. The equipment is presently located in the basement and the applicant wishes to move the equipment to the rooftop. He brought copies of the plans to the meeting and the board briefly reviewed same. Mr. Tremble will bring the board's concerns regarding the height/appearance of the equipment to the attention of the Planning Board.

Approved 1/9/14

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Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Danese and seconded by Mr. Turchi to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. A voice vote carried the motion. All voted in favor; none were opposed.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie B. Nicolosi
Acting Historic Preservation Secretary