



THPC Minutes of January 9, 2014

Introduction

The regular meeting, including the continuation of a special hearing of the Tenafly Historic Preservation Commission was held on Thursday, January 9, 2014 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 Record within the first 10 days of the New Year. Copies of all revised or additional meeting notices are sent via fax to 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, Michael Barone, Rita Heller, Sereno Danese, Mario Turchi, Don Merino

Excused: Council Rep. Max Basch, Karen Neus

Also Present: Borough Attorney William McClure
Planning Board Liaison Kevin Tremble

Swearing in of members

The following members of the Historic Preservation Commission were sworn in by Borough Attorney William McClure:

- ❖ David Wall, Commission Member (Class B)
- ❖ Sereno Danese, Alternate Member (1st)

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Election of Officers for 2014

Nominations for Chairman:

A motion was made by Dr. Merino and seconded by Mr. Danese to nominate Mr. David Wall as Chairperson of the Tenafly Historic Preservation Commission. The nominations were closed. A voice vote carried the motion unanimously. Mr. Wall is the Chairperson of the 2014 Tenafly Historic Preservation Commission.

Nominations for Vice Chairman:

A motion was made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Dr. Merino to nominate Mr. Mario Turchi as Vice Chairman of the Tenafly Historic Preservation Commission. The nominations were closed. A voice vote carried unanimously. Mr. Turchi is the Vice Chairman of the 2014 Tenafly Historic Preservation Commission.

Nominations for Treasurer:

A motion was made by Dr. Merino and seconded by Mr. Turchi to nominate Dr. Rita Heller as Treasurer of the Tenafly Historic Preservation Commission. The nominations were closed. A voice vote carried unanimously. Dr. Heller is the Treasurer of the 2014 Tenafly Historic Preservation Commission.

Nominations for Secretary:

A motion was made by Dr. Merino and seconded by Mr. Turchi to nominate Mrs. Karen Neus as Secretary of the Tenafly Historic Preservation Commission. The nominations were closed. A voice vote carried unanimously. Mrs. Neus is the Secretary of the 2014 Tenafly Historic Preservation Commission.

Continuation of Special Hearing regarding Issue of Whether to Recommend to Governing Body to Designate 53 Knickerbocker Road for Landmark Status

Mr. Wall announced that the above hearing was being continued this evening. All board members introduced themselves and gave their credentials to the public. Mr. Wall said he is a retired member of the New York Bar, after having graduated from Notre Dame Law School and worked for the Appellate Term in Brooklyn. He was a History major at St. Peter's University and is the class B member. Dr. Merino stated that he is the class A member and an engineer teaching at Stevens Institute of Technology. Dr. Heller said that she teaches History at the Community College of Morris. Mr. Turchi stated that he has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Rhode Island School of Design and a Master's degree in Industrial Design from Pratt Institute. He currently operates a design consulting firm which he co-founded 20 years ago. Mr. Barone has his own consulting business. Mr. Danese has lived in Tenafly his entire life. Mr. Wall noted that the first step in the recommendation process is to engage in the preparation of a survey of the property. He noted that a Designation Report had been prepared by T. Robins Brown, Architectural Historian.

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Mr. Wall called upon Mary Delaney Krugman of the historic preservation consulting firm Mary Delaney Krugman Associates, Inc., which was retained by the Historic Preservation Commission, to give its presentation. She was sworn in by Borough Attorney McClure. She gave her credentials to the board. A motion was made by Dr. Heller and seconded by Dr. Merino to accept her as an expert in the field of architectural history. A voice vote carried the motion. All voted in favor; none were opposed.

Mrs. Krugman testified that T. Robins Brown could not be present. Mrs. Krugman researched the matter and visited the site on the outside of its perimeter. She testified at length concerning Tenafly's Master Plan and ordinance and was of the opinion that the Designation Report was sufficient to support the designation of 53 Knickerbocker Road as an historic Landmark.

Mrs. Delaney Krugman reviewed and entered the following exhibits into the record during the course of her presentation:

- Exhibit A, 1/9/14, Designation Report, Malcolm S. Mackay-Donald V. Lowe House and Garage
- Exhibit B, 1/9/14, Mary Delaney Krugman resume
- Exhibit C, 1/9/14, T. Robins Brown resume
- Exhibit D, 1/9/14, Designation Report Citations and Additional Documentation
- Exhibit E, 1/9/14, Designation Report – Appendix, Page 56
- Exhibit F, 1/9/14, Photo, 2013 Aerial View, Knickerbocker Road Historic District, Tenafly, NJ
- Exhibit G, 1/9/14, Photos, The House of the Knickerbocker Historic District
- Exhibit H, 1/9/14, Photocopy of New York Times, December 11, 1969, Donald Lowe Obituary
- Exhibit I, 1/9/14, Letter dated December 31, 2013, from Daniel D. Saunders, Administrator & Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Natural & Historic Resources, Historic Preservation Office re: Certification of Eligibility

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

It was noted that the attorney and co-homeowners of 53 Knickerbocker Road were not present at this evening's hearing.

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The following individuals voiced concerns/comments regarding a decision to designate this property:

- Phyllis Perskie-Kessler
- Mark Kessler
- Alice Rigney, Borough Historian
- Paul Stefanowicz, Assistant Borough Historian

Mr. McClure explained the process and timeframe for the designation of a property. Board members added comments regarding the significance of the individuals who previously lived there and the lengthy process of designation. It was noted that much land was donated to the Borough, including Sunnyside Park, Roosevelt Common and the property upon which Mackay School sits. Mr. Malcolm Mackay was a collector of Charles Russell artwork, of which much is located at the Montana Historical Society. Mr. Wall noted that there is a page in his book regarding the donation of the Roosevelt Monument and the surrounding land. Mr. Stefanowicz noted for the board that there were Port Authority helicopter landings and takeoffs on site during Donald Lowe's residency.

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.

A motion was made by Mr. Danese and seconded by Dr. Merino to recommend to the Mayor and Council that 53 Knickerbocker Road, Block 602, Lot 9, be fully designated as a historic landmark. The roll was called and the motion carried. Voting YES: Mr. Wall, Mr. Barone, Dr. Heller, Mr. Danese, Mr. Turchi and Dr. Merino.

The board thanked Mary Delaney Krugman for her presentation this evening.

The board took a five (5) minute recess.

Roosevelt Monument

Dr. Heller advised that the work for the emergency removal of graffiti has been completed and paid. The Borough will undertake more comprehensive restoration in 2014. This will cost approximately \$3,200.00.

Mr. Wall has not received a proposal from the electrician, Mr. Riley, for the lighting repairs.

Budget

Dr. Heller gave a brief summary of the proposed budget for 2014.

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Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Dr. Merino and seconded by Mr. Danese to approve the minutes of November 7, 2013, and December 5, 2013, as amended. A voice vote carried the motion. All voted in favor; none were opposed.

Miscellaneous Items

There was some discussion regarding roofing requests in the Certificate of Appropriateness application. Many roofers are installing skylights which are not specifically approved as part of the application.

Mr. Tremble advised that he was appointed as the Liaison to the Tenafly Historic Preservation Commission for the Tenafly Planning Board.

Mr. Stefanowicz was appointed to the Open Space & Recreation Trust Fund Review Committee.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Dr. Merino and seconded by Mr. Turchi to adjourn the meeting at 10:29 p.m. A voice vote carried the motion. All voted in favor; none were opposed.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie B. Nicolosi
Acting Historic Preservation Secretary