



THPC Minutes of December 3, 2015

Chairman David Wall called the meeting to order at 8:05 P.M. and read the Open Public Meetings Act.

Open Public Meetings Act

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.

Roll Call

Chairman David Wall
Vice-Chairman Mario Turchi
Treasurer Rita Heller
Secretary Karen Neus
Richard Bennett
Reno Danese
Karen Neus

Absent: Michael Barone

Also Present:

Paul Stefanowicz, Mayor's Liaison
Nick Stefanowicz, Student Liaison
Kevin Tremble, Planning Board Liaison
Bob Reiss, Bergenfield Historical Commission
Shari Caloz – Church of the Atonement Member
Jack Caloz – Church of the Atonement Member

Mr. Reiss indicated he was interested in the Valley Hotel situation. He had contacted Coline Jenkins who said the building will be demolished, although developer might be reconsidering, as size was very much reduced by Tenafly Planning Board. Dave said if right person came along

they might purchase from developer. Mr. Reiss asked if committee had been put together. Dave said HPC requested front portion of hotel be saved, which goes back to early 1870's. Planning Board voted 5 to 3 in approval of demolition. They said builder should designate small specific area to be devoted to Elizabeth Cady Stanton. HPC members did tour building looking for artifacts, but saw none. Bathrooms were pre-1950; building was vacant for five years. Kevin Tremble added Planning Board memorialization of report would be done on December 19th; anyone could make an appeal within 45 days to the Superior Court.

Budget

Rita reported Borough Administrator wants budget from HPC tomorrow (December 4). Borough Administrator and CEO want it to remain at \$9,495. Discussion ensued amongst members. Architectural Historian needs to write designation reports for business district's four most important buildings: movie theater, apothecary building, bank on corner and Bower Pharmacy façade. A blue historic market has not been erected in Tenafly in the past 18 months. (\$1,850 for a sign.) Karen said monies need to be included for education and half-day training on a Saturday to hire Mary Krugman in that regard. Two designation reports are being paid for from 2014 budget. Karen added no money has been allotted for cleaning and maintenance of Inness Road Gates. Paul said money was found in the Tenafly Municipal Budget for repair of iconic Tenafly Railroad Station. (Bob Culvert did make an appearance this evening to update members on railroad station repairs.)

Kevin noted back in January/February discussion was about yearly inspection of Borough monuments. Aside from Inness Road Gates and railroad station, was anything else inspected? Question arose about cost of repair of lighting at Roosevelt Monument - \$2,800 had been designated.

Dave said the sidewalk was fixed at owner's expense on Serpentine Road. Dave added signs and Roosevelt Monument look very nice, but Town Electrician Ken Reilly says lights are defective, smashed and can't be fixed. Karen suggested fix or replace them. Kevin said there are five lights downtown that need fixing also. Rita will look at minutes to find discussion regarding Roosevelt Monument lights and remedies.

Discussion amongst members included cost for designation reports on two Sisson Houses also.

(At this point in the meeting, Rita Heller left for the evening.)

Undesignated Properties

Dave spoke about Church of the Atonement (Episcopal); front part is original from about 1870. In the 1982-83 Bergen County Historical Site Survey Book two churches were selected: Tenafly Presbyterian Church and Church of the Atonement. Presbyterian Church already accepted the designation honor, although only Chapel and front were designated. Presbyterian Church did visit a few years ago with HPC regarding replacing fencing on south border. They were hoping for white vinyl, but Dave suggested black fencing, which looked like rest of fence, and they were happy with that.

If Church of the Atonement does want to be earmarked, it would be with the approval of church members. The Planning Board looks at these things after HPC has report written. When Planning Board done, it goes before Mayor & Council. Dave did give the two fact-finding members present Code & Recommendations and read certain portions at the meeting. Shari

had two questions: (1) only the old part would be designated; (2) she was not sure if members have the right to make that decision, as church belongs to Diocese of Newark. Dave said look at Tenafly Tax Bill and send a certified letter to them. Shari added she was a former Vestry Member and asked by the Pastor to look into this. Karen asked if Church was aware of National Trust, and if getting guidance from Diocese, they would probably know. Perhaps March would be an easier timeframe. After HPC recommends approval, it goes to Planning Board (church can say yes or no they want this) and then to Mayor & Council, which would probably be May or June. Shari asked why is Church being considered now. Dave said Sisson Houses belonged to Church of the Atonement. Granddaughters of James Jay donated land to Church of the Atonement and Presbyterian Church. It is purely historical significance.

Sisson Houses

Dave got in touch with owner @ (Everett Dunn House) 20 Forest Road and they approved having T.R. Brown do a designation report. No one was home at 89 Highwood. The four properties were all identified in the Bergen county 1982-1983 Historic Sites Survey.

Oresko Monument

In a letter dated 2/23/15 Mayor said HPC should design area for park between post office and Oresko Park. Mario met with Trustee Attorney John M. Carbone, Esq. for Sgt. Oresko's estate. Mario designed monument; Karen helped to create the text. After Mario and Karen presented memorial concept with associated costs to Mayor & Council in May of 2015, M&C decided that they would need to find funding for the landscaping as well as the monument before the project could move forward. Now it is up to Mayor & Council. Karen wants to know what money Mayor & Council have designated for landscaping. Dave, speaking on behalf of himself and not HPC, attended last Council meeting and asked that they reconsider leaving monument in Oresko Park and not placing it in Huyler Park. Mayor requested Dave get HPC opinions on this. Discussion followed and questions raised: does attorney have monetary interest; (there are no family heirs to Sgt. Oresko); is the estate going to pay for this; is it personal Oresko trust or a military trust? Mayor at next Council meeting attended by Dave said Borough Attorney should reach out to Mr. Carbone. Mayor told Dave, he should make the call. Mario recalled attorney saying he just wanted memory kept of Sgt. Oresko. Mario said all the work is done. Mayor informed Dave he'd get back to him. Paul said in his report to Mayor & Council, he will say "monument left open as to where it should go."

End of Term for Members

Reno Danese and Mario Turchi's terms on HPC are coming to an end. Reno mentioned he is on Tenafly's Green Team. Dave thinks HPC needs an attorney as a member. Rita and Karen know Risa Rosenberg, former head of TNC, who attended many meetings re: 87 County Road. Reno was 1st alternate; Mike 2nd alternate. Mario asked about expanding HPC, which Dave said was a possibility. Reno said he would consider staying on if membership was expanded. Dave will recommend Risa; Mayor will decide. Dave would recommend promoting Mario to Class A; Rita would be Class B.

172 Serpentine Road

Richard discussed Certificate of Appropriateness for 172 Serpentine Road. HPC didn't ask enough questions on certain aspects. The garage should not have been attached to house and the doors should not have been moved from side to front, paint colors should have been

checked also. Richard suggested standards be attached as a link to HPC web site. HPC is not telling them what to do inside the home. HPC must be more cognizant on next house. The neighbors were not notified; HPC doesn't want to set precedence. A detached garage could have been placed in the back.

Karen added this is why HPC needs an expert to come in and give a class to the members. Karen said it should have been a major application, postponed one month and neighbors notified. Dave said for them to come in just for discussion, but applicants showed up with their architect.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION TO APPROVE OCTOBER 2015 MINUTES MADE BY RENO DANESE; SECONDED BY KAREN NEUS. So approved by all.

MOTION TO APPROVE NOVEMBER 2015 MINUTES MADE BY RENO DANESE; SECONDED BY KAREN NEUS. So approved by all.

Miscellaneous

Kevin informed everyone that Planning Board denied subdivision for four lots at 29 Knickerbocker Road. He added this would be his last meeting as Planning Board Liaison. Kevin said he was disappointed in the approved renovations/addition at Elizabeth Cady Stanton's home, and approval of changes at 172 Serpentine Road, also approved last month by HPC. T.R. Brown was not able to review work being done at E.C. Stanton's home.

MOTION TO PRAISE AND THANK KEVIN TREMBLE FOR HIS LONG YEARS OF DEDICATION AND SERVICE TO HPC MADE BY RENO DANESE; SECONDED BY MARIO TURCHI. So approved by all.

Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN MADE BY RENO DANESE; SECONDED BY MARIO TURCHI. So approved.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah L. Alvarez, Secretary/Transcriber

MINUTES APPROVED JANUARY 7, 2016.