



THPC Minutes of September 3, 2009

Roll Call:

Present: Chairman Bill Saunders, Rita Heller, Don Merino, Karen Neus, Mario Turchi, Paul Stefanowicz
Excused: Dave Wall

Also Present: Kevin Tremble, Mark Feldman (Council Liaison), Martha Kovin, Member of the Public

Open Public Meetings Act:

Chairman Saunders opened the meeting and recited the Open Public Meetings Act.

Agenda:

1. HISTORIC MAPS OF TENAFLY NEIGHBORHOODS

Bill received several large, very old maps of Tenafly neighborhoods as a gift to the Borough from Northern Valley Bank. A presentation will be made to the Mayor & Council on Tuesday, 9/22 some time after 7:30 PM. Bill had three plaques made to accompany the maps.

2. 53 KNICKERBOCKER AVENUE – MACKAY ESTATE

Rita said she sent a letter in April 2009 to Evelyn Clyman, but has had no response. Rita asked Alice Rigby, Tenafly Historian, to please send a letter to Mrs. Clyman. Mrs. Clyman, a 30-year resident, was visited by a Mackay heir (Jean Mackay Irwin) in September 2008. 14 photographs of the home were taken and have been sent to Alice (and to Rita in an inaccessible program.) The estate comprises 6.2 acres. Mrs. Clyman is in her 90's and has two sons. Mark Feldman asked who pays the taxes on the estate, whose name is the house registered in. THPC would like Alice and TR Brown to get some oral history.

3. NORMAN PLACE BARN, CIRCA 1900

THPC has strict guidelines. The red barn is in back of 15 Norman Place down by Tenafly Road. Bill asked if you can do the barn without the house. TR Brown would

know if that is possible. Don asked how much is the cost for designation?

Kevin said the Planning Board asked him to look at out buildings. Kevin said he thought 19th century history was in some buildings. It would be a minor project involving 19th century barns and out buildings. Karen said large properties have carriage houses also.

In Dave's email of 8/30 he asked if anyone else would like to help on the interview and writing up the history. The Kuhns are only second family to own the place, previous owners were Westervelts. Paul said yes, he would help Dave. Karen will get an estimate for the cost from TR Brown.

Karen said there was a for sale sign at 92 Highwood Avenue calling the property historic. Bill said that home, while historic, has no designation.

4. RAILROAD AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Karen, Rita and historic consultant T. Robin Brown have exchanged emails regarding formal designation report to be done and the hiring of T. Robin Brown to write a designation report for the Railroad Avenue district. The State Historic Preservation Office has stepped out of issue by making a determination "not to make a determination. Kevin explained that that they are saying/claiming is that the Light Rail will not come through, it won't affect anything historic and the bottom line is there is no impact and we don't need to make determination. The cost of Light Rail project is \$900 million for 11 miles of track. Bill asked what can THPC do. Karen said T. Robin Brown said once they've made determination not to make determination a letter is not needed. Mario asked that HPC request T. Robin Brown draft a letter of response anyway. Mark asked the Planning Board where are they going to put the parking garage?

The contract was signed 8/1/09 with T. Robin Brown. T. Robin Brown will submit draft of report two months after signing of contract. Complete report will be done two weeks after she receives all comments. If the designation is pursued, this will be third try to designate Railroad Avenue a historical district.

Kevin said any letter to State Historic Preservation Officer should also go to Advisory Council as an appeal. Kevin asked does the person signing letter have any authority?

Mrs. Kovin said she wrote a 2-1/2 page letter to Governor Corzine and others to oppose light rail. Kevin asked that she copy Planning Board on anything so he can bring it to the attention of the Planning Board.

5. HISTORIC PLAN ELEMENT

Karen forwarded the Historic Plan Element to Kevin. Karen asked what is the next step in the Planning Board issue? Kevin said report to the Planning Board will indicate status of historic preservation as it relates to Master Plan. Kevin asked if THPC would like Planner Janice Talley to come to a special meeting.

6. HISTORIC DISTRICT SIGNAGE

Mario said the prototype is done. Mark Fuller in Florida hasn't gotten the first check for payment. Check should be ready 9/13. There was a problem with poles. They are making two signs and epoxying them together. Rita said she had worried about accessing the \$12,000, in capital account. PO went through and that \$11,204 of the \$12,000 will be spent. Mario asked where sign should be sent? Mario will speak to Bob Beutell, DPW, and inform him DPW is installing signs. Borough Clerk and Borough Administrator will be contacted regarding locations of sign placement. Are they aware the signs are going up? Don said notice should be sent to homeowners.

Don gave presentation to Mayor & Council and showed them the signs. Mario will call Borough Administrator and inform him the signs are ready to go, and then notify Bob Beutell. Karen and Mario will do exact sign site. Karen will notify Suburbanite and tell them where the first one going up is. Don said to ask Borough Administrator to notify Mayor and arrange for publicity.

7. HPC BUDGET STATUS

Rita said \$3,000 allocated for TR Brown, which includes mileage, travel, duplication, etc. Rita said TR Brown should be employed for two more projects: 53 Knickerbocker and Red Barn.

Rita reported re: Brochures: 1,000 were printed in 2008. Tenafly Welcome uses 200-300 a year. She will give them 200-300 more after counting inventory. Members said order 1,000 more now. Rita told Library people to ask for more when their amount is low. Rita met with new Clinton Inn manager asking him to keep a supply in the hotel lobby. Alice is hoping to distribute 100 at multi-year high school reunion event soon.

8. APPROVAL OF MAY AND JUNE 2009 MINUTES

MOTION TO APPROVE MAY 2009 MINUTES MADE BY KAREN NEUS; 2ND BY DON MERINO. So carried.

MOTION TO APPROVE JUNE 2009 MINUTES MADE BY KAREN NEUS; 2ND BY DON MERINO. So carried.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made and 2nd by all. So carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah L. Alvarez, Secretary

P.S. I will not be at the October 1st meeting.

Approved 11/5/09